THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

February 10th—16th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 6

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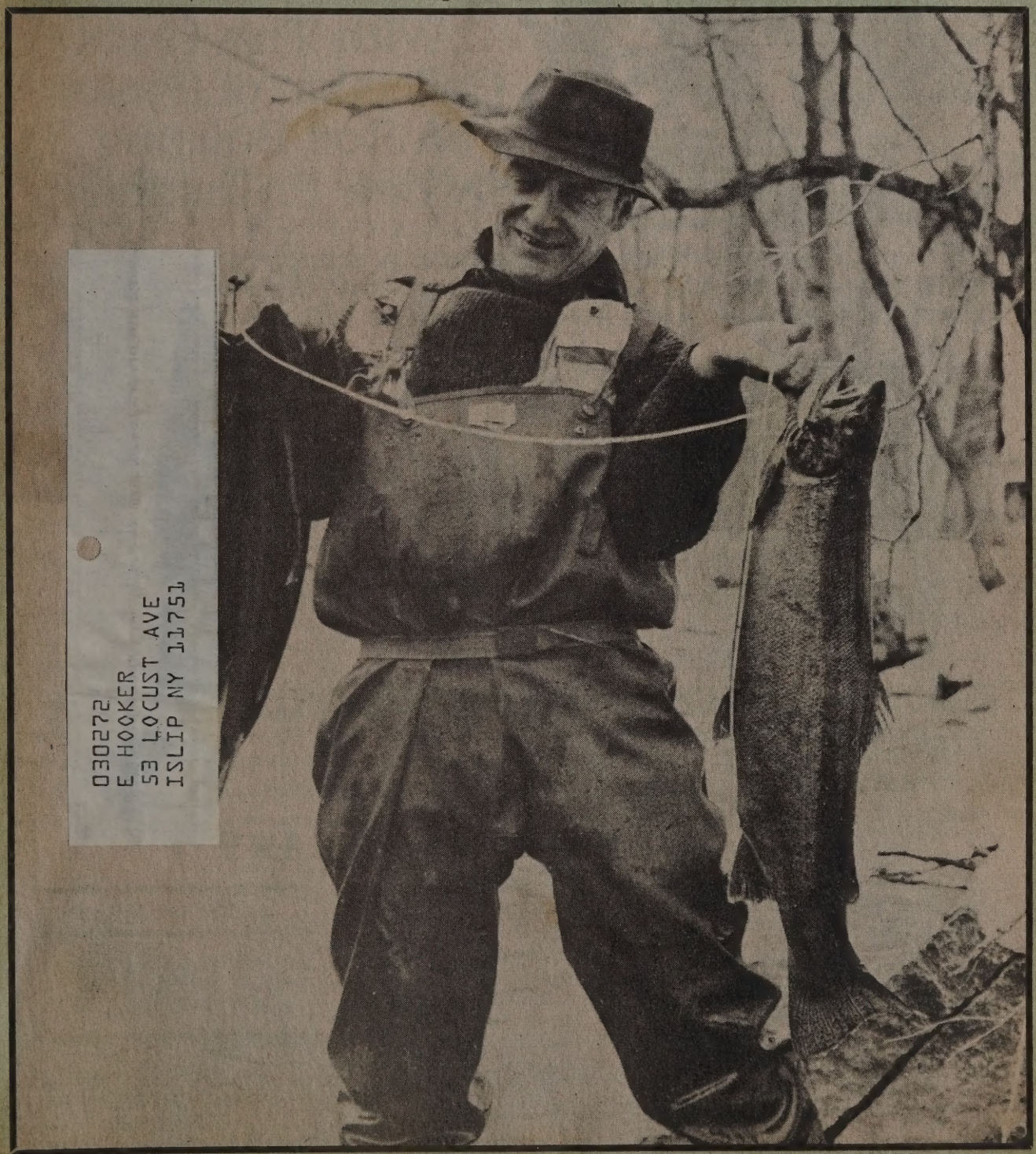

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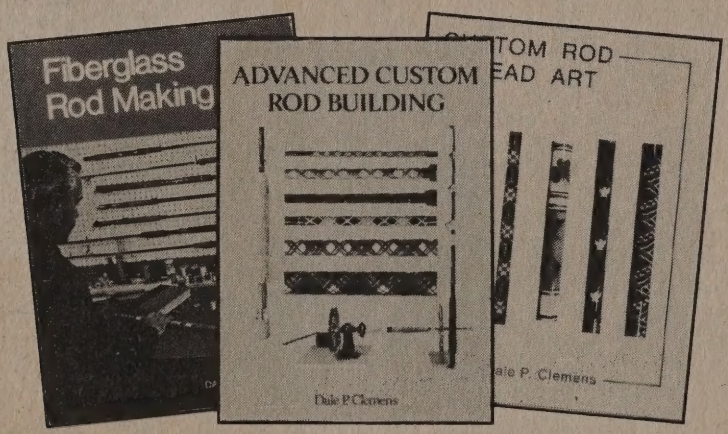

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 18, Number 6 February 10th, 1983

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Rainbow trout, most of them in the six to twelve pound range, continue to lure Metropolitan Area anglers to the Lake Ontario region. Photo by Frank Daignault.

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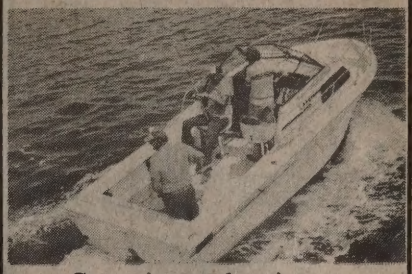

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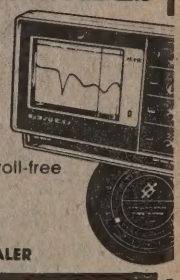

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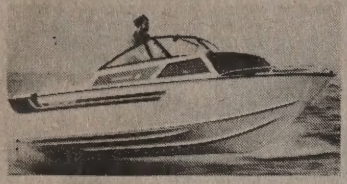

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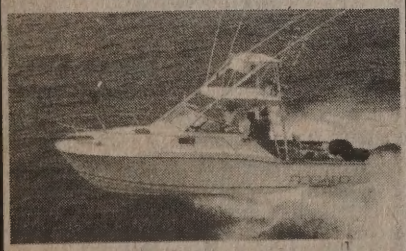

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BABYLON TUNA CLUB FISHING SCHOOL SCHEDULE

The Babylon Tuna Club's (BTC) fishing school will be held at the American Legion Hall, 22 Grove Street in Babylon. Registration according to Chairman Ralph Perone will begin at 7:30PM on February 16th and the first session will follow at approximately 8PM. There will be a total of six sessions which will include both offshore and inshore fishing. Each session will be conducted by an expert in his specialty and many techniques learned from years of experience will be shared with attendees. Free coffee and cake will be served each night. Cost of the classes will be $15 and anyone who wishes to join the BTC will have that cost deducted from their initiation dues. Children 14 years old and younger are welcomed and their cost will be half price.

Classes are scheduled as follows:

Feb. 16, 8PM: Flounder & fluke by Bruce Morabito.

Feb. 23, 8PM: Weakfish and blackfish plus wreck fishing and anchoring by Lou Clementz and Bob Ufer.

March 2, 8PM: Stripers, live lining, dead sticking & trolling plus cod and pollack fishing by Larry Frank & Sam Saladino.

March 9, 8PM: Bluefishing and wire lining by Al Lorinzetti, Jr.

March 16, 8PM: Offshore trolling and rigged baits by Dick Svoboda.

March 23, 8PM: Rigging, selecting lures, selecting boat speed and placement of lures by Ralph Perone.

Also, there will be various films shown about reel maintenance, rod winding, rope splicing, line splicing, knot tying and use of navigational equipment including Loran. For additional information call Ralph Perone at 516-669-9837.

SPORTSMEN FAVOR STRONG STRIPER MANAGEMENT BILL

A public hearing on marine-related issues was conducted at the Babylon Town Hall (January 15) by Senator Owen H. Johnson, Chairman of the State Senate Subcommittee on the Long Island Marine District. At a packed hearing, sport fishermen presented a united Front in calling for a meaningful striped bass management law based on the recommendations of the State/Federal Striped Bass Management Plan. To save the badly depressed fishery, speaker after speaker specifically urged passage of legislation incorporating a 24-inch minimum total length for coastal striped bass, and a fishery closure period of December 1 to April 30. In addition to save our stripers, other major organizations urging a 24-inch minimum were: The New York Sport Fishing Federation, the Nassau County Fish and Game Association, the Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen, the United Mobile Sportsmen, the Montauk Surfcasters Association, and numerous fishing clubs.

As part of the campaign to obtain passage of an effective management plan this year, Save our Stripers is offering free bumper stickers with the message, "Save Our Stripers—Management or Extinction." Anyone interested can send a stamped, self-addressed, No. 10 envelope to: Save Our Stripers, Box 116, Massapequa Park, N.Y. 11762.

FREE BOATING COURSE OFFERED BY CITY ISLAND POWER SQUADRON

Boatmen and boatwomen are invited by the City Island Power and Sail Squadron to attend a public boating instruction course to be conducted at City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, Bronx, City Island, New York.

Starting February 14, 1983, classes will be held on Mondays at 7:30 PM. Some of the subjects are safety operation of boats and emergency procedures. Courses are taught by experienced instructors, and last 14 weeks.

The public boating course is free, a small charge of $10 is charged for materials and testing.

For addition information, call days: Joe Burck, (212) 885-1667; or evenings: Bill Purcell, (212) 863-5772.

ESTUARINE SANCTUARY GRANT AWARD TO THE STATE OF N.Y. FOR A HUDSON RIVER ESTUARINE SANCTUARY

On behalf of the State of New York, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation submitted an aplication for a grant from the U.S. Office of Coastal Zone Management within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish an estuarine sanctuary on the Hudson River. This grant was approved in September, 1982.

For the purposes of education and comparative research, sites were chosen which exhibit the range of salinity conditions found in the Hudson. Four natural areas, the Hudson's highest quality tidal wetland complexes, are proposed for inclusion in the Sanctuary: Stockport Flats, Columbia County (1,184 acres), Tivoli Bays, Dutchess County (1,481 acres), Iona Island, Rockland County (556 acres), and Piermont Marsh, Rockland County (943 acres), for a total of 4,165 acres of land and water. The acquisition grant request to noaa for $375,000, matched by an equivalent amount of State funds and services would be used for fee simple acquisition of wetlands, waters and shore line at Stockport Flats (maximum 299 acres), Tivoli Bays (45 acres), and Piermont March (73 acres), and to develop or renovate facilities at two or more of the four

Hudson River sites. These facilities (buildings, roads, parking lots, trails, and boardwalk) will be used to accommodate research activities, educational programs, and visitors. All other land at the four sites is in public ownership.

Approval of this grant application would permit the establishment of an estuarine sanctuary representing a subcategory of the "Virginian biogeographic region." The proposed sanctuary would be used primarily for research and education purposes, especially to provide information useful for coastal zone management decision-making. Multiple use would be encouraged to the extent that is is compatible with the proposed sanctuary's research and educational programs. Traditional activities compatible with sanctuary objectives, such as hunting, sport and commercial fishing, fur trapping, bird watching and recreational boating, will continue where currently permitted in the Hudson River element of the system. A management plan is presently being drafted, in consultation with other state and Federal agencies, local governments and private organizations and individuals.

The National Estuarine Sanctuary System includes a dozen state-managed sanctuaries on the Atlantic, Gulf, Pacific and Great Lakes Coasts. They are dedicated to research on coastal zone ecology and to education of the public on the coastal zone. The system was formed to preserve estuarine areas and to allow research. Research and monitoring in and near the proposed sanctuary would provide base-line information against which the impacts of human activities elsewhere in the Hudson River and the Virginian biogeographic region could be assessed.

Establishment of a Hudson River Estuarine Sanctuary is consistent with the goals of the Fisheries Development Program for the Hudson River. This program, developed in 1980 by DEC staff and the Fisheries Advisory Committee, was based, in part, on a report by the Oceanic Society. The Fisheries Development Program identified two major goals: a) Restore and maintain the ecological health of the estuary, and b) Manage estuarine communities for optimum sustainable yield.

Although problems with toxics continue to be a major factor affecting all fisheries management decisions on the Hudson, great progress has been made in restoring the ecological health of the estuary. During the mid-1970s, for example, sewage treatment plants constructed in the Capital District transformed the Hudson. No longer "The Albany Pool," the area now supports good populations of resident and migratory fish. The DEC is committed to continuing environmental protection activities in the Hudson. The recently (February 1, 1982) published "Proposed Changes in Striped Bass Fishing Regulations in New York State; Background, Need and Rationale" is an excellent example of management for optimum sustained yield. This management approach attempts to provide a sustained yield of fish while considering a variety of social, political and economic concerns.

In order to achieve these goals, a number of programs were described: short-term programs to address issues of immediate concern and long-term programs to provide the conceptual framework for future management efforts. The Estuarine Sanctuaries Program will permanently preserve four of the Hudson River's most valuable marshes, link the Hudson River to a prestigious, nationwide system of sanctuaries, and thereby be responsive to the long-term objective of the Fisheries Development Plan to "develop educational and promotional programs for the estuary and its fisheries."

BABYLON TUNA CLUB ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The following officers for 1983 were elected at the Babylon Tuna Club's December meeting:
President: Dave Levin
Vice-Pres: Ray Seagren
Treasurer: Art Stabbe
Sec'y: Carl Fogliano
Membership: Wolf Hager
Corr. Sec'y: Fred Guardineer
Contest Chrmn: Austin Kelley
Sgt.-At-Arms: Dick Svoboda

The membership would like to thank the outgoing officers for the fine job they did in 1982.

Fisherpersons who like to fish and support their club may obtain application information by writing to: Babylon Tuna Club, Attn: Wolf Hager, P.O. Box 123, Babylon, New York 11702.

BEHAN SPONSORS TUNA PROTECTION RESOLUTION

Assemblyman John L. Behan (R,C-Montauk) has called upon the federal government to extend to tuna fish the protection guaranteed under the National Fishery Conservation Management Act. At the present time, tuna are excluded from protection from foreign fishing fleets within the U.S. 200-mile fishery management zone.

Support for this measure has come from both commercial and sport fishermen, including the New York Sport Fishing Federation, the New York longline fishing industry, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. U.S. government studies have concluded that if the pressure from foreign fleets continues unabated, the tuna population may face commercial and biological extinction.

Noting the far-reaching consequences over-fishing has had upon the tuna, Behan remarked, "Lack of protection for the tuna population hurts both the commercial fishermen who depend upon tuna for their livelihood and the sport fishermen. The extinction of tuna, although of local concern, is a problem which confronts

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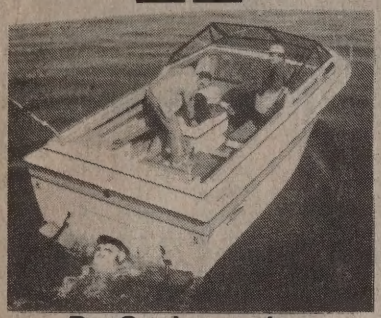

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Exclusion of tuna from the Fishery Conservation Management Act, while obviously creating a serious danger to the tuna population, impacts heavily upon other species as well. Foreign fishery practices, as well as the supervision of foreign fleets within U.S. territorial waters creates pressures upon other marine species—most notably game fish inadvertently killed or injured in the attempt to capture tuna.

A resolution sponsored by Assemblyman Behan and passed by the New York State Assembly on December 16, 1982, urges Congress to pass the American Tuna Protection Act in order to fill such a serious gap in the national fishery management program.

STRIPED BASS PLAN UPDATE

More than a year after the Interstate Striped Bass Management Program recommended minimum size restrictions (24 inches total length "TL" in coastal waters; 14 inches in inland waters) and other measures to reduce fishing mortality on spawning striped bass, only four or twelve Atlantic coast states have enacted regulations in strict compliance wit the program. They are New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. An update on the status of proposed changes in striped bass laws and regulations in the other eight states follows:

Delaware: A package of proposals to implement the Interstate Program filed in the 1982 legislature, but will be reintrouduced unchanged in 1983. Chances for passage are seen as improved.

Maine: The Department of Marine Resources has prepared three different versions of striped bass regulations. At press time it had not yet been decided which would be introduced into the legislature in January. The least restrictive set of regulations, however, conforms to the Interstate Program, with the other two going further.

Mayland: Regulations made effective in February of this year bring Maryland into partial compliance. A flat 14 inch TL minimum size limit in inland waters (which includes much of Chesapeake Bay) is still under consideration, while a 12 inch limit remains in force in most areas.

New Jersey: The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed raising the minimum size from 18 inches TL to 24 inches, a ban on the commercial sale of stripers, and a daily creel limit of 10 fish per person. At a recent meeting of the Marine Fisheries Council (which has veto power over DEP proposals) to discuss these proposals; the sale ban raised commercial opposition and the creel limit drew protests from sport fishermen. Decisions on these issues has been deferred. It will probably be at least six months before any changes are made.

New York: A Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) proposal to raise the minimum size limit from 17 to 18 inches TL and to lengthen the closed season in some areas was rejected by the legislature this year. The DEC will reintroduce the proposals in January with virtually no changes. The biggest hassle last year was over the proposed season change, which drew commercial opposition. This year's proposal includes a fallback position to appease commercial fishermen on this issue.

North Carolina: The Marine Fisheries Commission rejected a 16 inch TL minimum size (current regulations include a 12 inch limit) in August, and plans no action in the near future.

Rhode Island: Regulations setting a 24 inch size limit for recreational fishermen went into effect on September 10th. The Marine Fisheries Council has scheduled a meeting in December, but striped bass is not on the agenda. Legislation to get specific regulations (e.g., applying the 24 inch limit to commercial fishermen, who now enjoy a 16 inch limit) has been introduced.

Virginia: Proposed regulations to raise the minimum size from 14 inches TL to 24 inches in coastal waters and to close spawning areas to gill nets from April 10 to May 21 are currently undergoing a 60-day public comment period.

MCA ANNOUNCES WINNER OF FREE SHARK TRIP

The Montauk Captains Association announced the winner of their New York Boat Show drawing for a free shark fishing trip aboard Capt. Joe McBride's, My Mate. Don Buck of Croton-on-Hudson was lucky enough to have his name selected from over 5,000 entries.

ATLANTIS ANGLERS OPEN FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Atlantis Anglers Association held their annual dinner dance at the Salty Bay Yacht Club in Freeport on Saturday evening, January 22, 1983. The evening included entertainment, prizes and a presentation of annual fishing awards for the following categories:

William Duncan, Iwin Silberger, Paul Howcott—Memorial award for the most outstanding fisherman.

Most outstanding fisherman—Mark Kaufman, 2nd year; 1st Runner up—Howard Sternberg; 2nd Runner up—John Caracciolo.

Award for the largest fish: blue shark, 164 lbs., Ron Dierlam; flounder, 2.13½, Howard Sternberg; weakfish, 12.12, Carmyn Farese; fluke, 5.9½, Howard Sternberg; mako shark, 119 lbs., Jack Maher; hammerhead, 163 lbs., Jack Brown; bluefish, 18.9, Howard Sternberg; albacore, 34.5, Carmyn Farese; tuna, 37 lbs., Lloyd Harrington; striped bass, 38.8, Howrd Sternberg; blackfish, 11.13½, Fuzzy Wengler; and codfish,

19.3, Ralph "Ambrose" Horowitz.

If you would like to join an interesting, well-rounded fishing club, our first meeting of the new year will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 1983 at 8PM at the Salty Bay Yacht Club, 180 Westside Ave., Freeport, NY.

For further information, please contact Joe Santangelo, (516) 796-2829 or Alan Zaretsky, (516) 796-3982 after 7PM.

FLOTILLA 1902 SMITHTOWN BOATING SAFETY COURSE

Smithtown Flotilla 1902 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct a nine lesson Boating Safety Course commencing on February 14, 1983 at 8 PM. It will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, East Main Street, Smithtown, N.Y. There is a minimum material charge.

For further information or pre-registration, please call Bill Shannon, 543-8966 or Pete Sparta, 724-4718.

BASIC BOATING COURSE IN CEDARHURST

USCGA Flotilla 13-4 offers a basic boating course that will commence March 2, 1983 at Lawrence Senior High School, Reilly Road, Cedarhurst, New York.

Course topics will include: boating safety; rules of the road; electronic aids to navigation; chart and compass; and will entitle participants to a certificate upon completion.

Registration at first session: March 2, 1983, 8-10PM, Lawrence Senior High School.

For further information, contact Don Kohan at (516) 295-1374.

IGFA ANNOUNCES 5, 10 15 & 20 TO ONE CLUBS

In response to requests from anglers and fishing clubs worldwide, the International Game Fish Association is establishing a program to give special recognition to catches where the weight of the fish far exceeds the breaking strength of the line used to catch the fish.

Plans for this program, outlined and approved at a meeting of IGFA Trustees and International Committee members at Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, in August, include recognition for catches where the weight of the fish is five, ten, fifteen or twenty times the breaking strength of the line. Approved applications will recognize the anglers as a member of the IGFA 5 to 1, 10 to 1, 15 to 1, or 20 to 1 Club. The angler will receive a certificate, an embroidered jacket emblem, and a pin, each denoting the appropriate club category.

Applications will be accepted for catches made on or after January 1, 1983, for fish weighing 10 lb. (4.5 kg) or more, providing that the species can be positively identified from the data and photographs submitted. Catches must be made according to IGFA International Angling Rules, and all submissions shall be made on the IGFA World Record and Fishing Contest application form, furnishing the same information and supporting data that is normally required for a world record claim.

All entries shall be accompanied by a registration fee of U.S. $25 to help cover the costs of processing the application, award items and other costs incurred in establishing and maintaining the award program. If an entry is not approved, the fee will be refunded in full.

If the current world Record & Fishing Contest Application form is used, the angler should designate on the form the club for which he or she is applying. Additional entry forms are available from IGFA, 3000 East Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316 U.S.A.

GATEWAY'S NEW OFFICERS FOR 1983

Gateway Stripers of Belle Harbor, N.Y. is pleased to announce its new slate of officers for 1983:

President: Dave Williams
Vice-Pres.: Bob Lekowski
Treas: Jack Mendler
Recording Sec: James McKay
Corrs. Sec: John Marsillo
Recorder: Ron Turbin
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Our best wishes go out to the new administration for a happy and prosperous New Year. We wish to express our gratitude to last year's officers for their outstanding work in 1982.

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TACKLE DOCTOR:

Thoughts On Umbrella Rigs & Tubes

Q. Last year I heard that many boaters and fishermen were being checked by New Jersey Marine Police for trolling with umbrella rigs because the rigs were illegal. Is this true?

My friends and I fish out of Staten Island and although we often fish Jersey waters, we fish just as much in New York waters. If we return to Staten Island do we need to worry about the umbrella rig law? Do other states have this same law? Help!!

Jason Hutchins

A. New Jersey Fish and Game regulations do forbid the use of lures with more than nine hooked points. A Rebel with three trebles is, therefore, legal; but an umbrella rig with six arms and a total of 12 hooks plus a trailing tube is therefore illegal since it has a total of 13 pointed hooks. Despite the hoopla about this regulation, most fishermen, even when they use the large gorilla rigs only have armed (hooked) tubes at the end of the umbrella rig arms for a toral of only seven hooks, counting the trailer tube. The law applies whenever you fish Jersey waters.

Some manufacturers do market umbrella rigs with every tube, including the mid-arm tubes, carrying a barbed hook. If you purchase a rig like this, to be legal in New Jersey waters, you must remove the armed tubes or bend the hooks so as to make the tube spin, but so they will not function as a hook.

Some other manufacturers, like Captain Vic Galgano of Spider Lures, market the umbrella rigs with special wires in the teaser tubes so you can bend them to spin seductively, but they are not then counted in the total numbe rof tubes to keep the number of hooks at nine.

As far as we know, no other state has a law like this, but you should check with the fish and game department in any state you visit. Some states DO have freshwater regulations that limit the number of hooks, but these laws may or may not apply in the salt. Check first.

This bass hit a Spider viper trailed six feet behind the mini rig.

Q. A fishing buddy and I have been arguing about the use of a length of wire laid down the center of a tube lure meant for striped bass. We have fished both Sandy Hook waters and up in Rhode Island, never using a wire in the tube. My buddy made one trip to Montauk and the captain used a tube with wire in the middle to form a good curve to the eel tube. Now he is all convinced to use wire in every tube. I feel the wire will ruin the lure. What do you think? Maybe we should try both methods. *Vince LaCanio*

A. A famous fisherman once said, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do!" (At least, I think it was a fisherman who said that.) We've fished for bass off the reefs at Narragansett and trolled with local skippers and New England editor, Tim Coleman, for bass. The rule here is no wire, but a sandworm added to the tube. The idea is to get the tube swimming in a slow, snake-like motion to fool a big bass.

Skippers at other ports will use the wire because they can build-in the correst swimming motion despite the actions, or inaction, of a visiting angler. Charter fishermen often have to second-guess the fares in case they aren't well versed in the bassology of the area. A pre-formed tube is often the best way to eliminate one variable from the day's fishing.

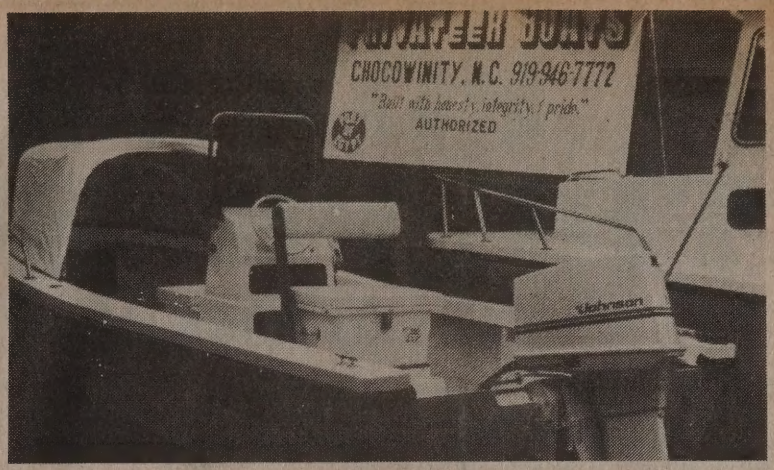
Still other skippers will swear by tube eels, the longer the better, with no wire feeling the natural curve of the latex tube is the very best action of all. One problem with the natural eel is that the curve can eventually be combed out of the tube while in the water. Many skippers bring their best tubes home each day and place them on top of the furnace or a warm heater to put a good curve back in the tubes.

Our staff uses tubes both ways, switching from one day to another, or even from hour to hour to see which works best. The general consensus here was, natural tubes are best in low light and deep water, while formed tubes with wire were best in lighter hours and when those damn blues are around!

Q. I heard that some boats in Long Island Sound and in the New York area made some good catches of mackerel with special umbrella rigs. Can you tell me how this can be done?

There were many days this past spring when the macs weren't showing on the machine in very thick schools. We caught more by casting the mackerel rigs than we did by jigging. I can see the possibility that trolling when the fish are scattered might be a good way to catch some fish in an otherwise impossible condition. *Steve Cummings.*

A. We would hesitate to say this would be a regular method to use, but it's worth a try on these pick-pick days. We heard red tubes were the best on mini-rigs. Multiple hookups were the rule. Fish the rigs on 150 feet of wire or match the depth you may be marking a few fish.



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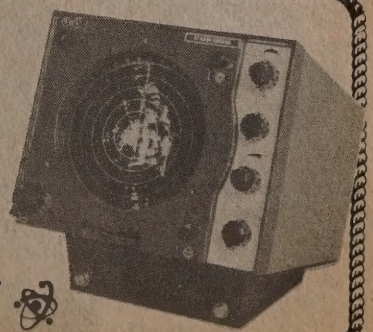

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POWER TO THE PRESIDENT

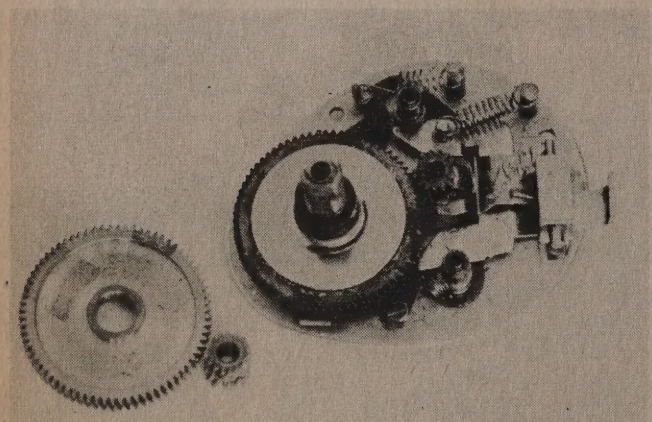
by Dick Mermon

Fishing tackle engineers generally design equipment for a very specific use. Although most rods and reels are quite functional, it usually takes an imaginative angler to advance that piece of equipment to a point where it suits his specific needs.

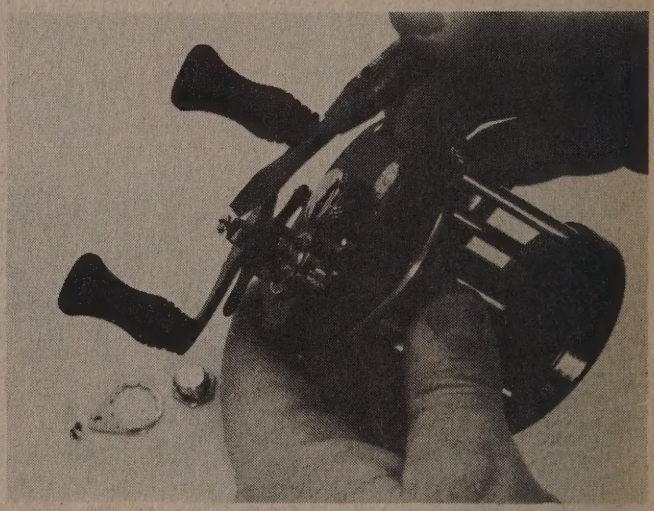
Take, for instance, Shakespeare's Presidential 1984 baitcasting reel, which was designed primarily for use as a freshwater ball reel. Prior to the wide spool reel, light tackle enthusiasts were employing bass casting equipment in saltwater with great success. Hence, the broader spool version was well accepted by marine fishermen because of its excellent characteristics, smooth drag system, non-corrosive internal parts and line capacity, but something was lacking.

The big problem was gear ratio and handle leverage. With the increased attention towards light tackle angling for bluefish, weakfish and striped bass, baitcasting gear proved to be more beneficial in handling and controlling these gamesters than spinning tackle. The influx of vertical fishing (jigging) stimulated the manufacturing of wide spool versions of bass casting reels such as the President 1984, Ambassadeur 6500, Penn Levelmatic and Daiwa Millionaire.

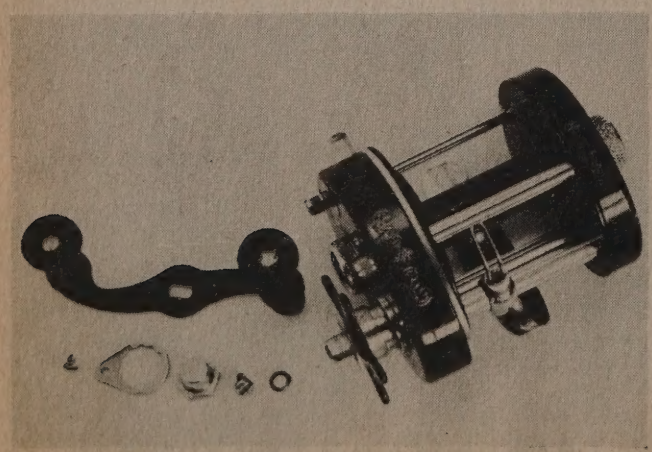
Lead lure fishing, vertical jigging, or whatever name one wishes to call this pleasurable scheme, released many anglers from the burden of wire line trolling. Still, with all the demand for better casting reels, there are a few with high gear ratios and wide spool line capacity. But there is good news ahead for owners of the Presidential 1984 reels. Available from most dealers who retail this model is a gear which boosts its retrieve ratio from 4:1 to 5:1. Even though it may seem but a trifle, this elevated ratio changes a line retrieve from 16½ inches to a whopping 22½ inches,



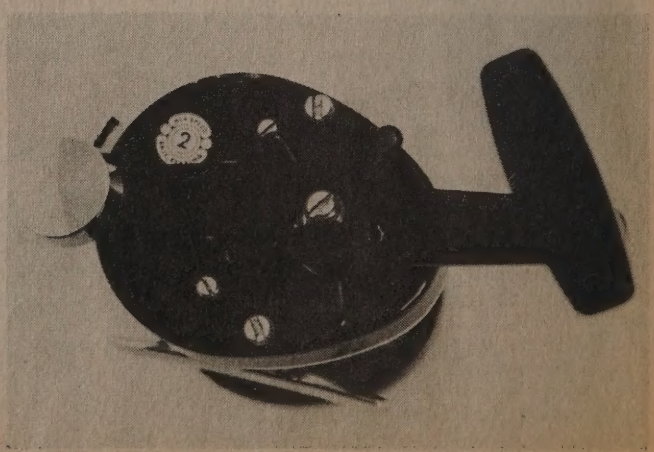
At the left are main drive and pinion gear in a 5 to 1 ratio which must be changed with the 4 to 1 gears positioned in the standard Presidential 1984 reel.



The handle lock screw is unfastened and the handle can be removed from the reel and discarded.



Parts which hold the handle in place. Handle (left to right): lock washer screw, lock nut washer, lock nut, handle shaft screw and round washer.



The ABU 9000 handle is placed onto the shaft and screw with its bottom washer is tightened to hold it there.

another half foot more per turn of the handle, when only 3/4 filled with monofilament line. Full capacity reels add another two inches to the intake, which might make the difference between catching fish and going fishless.

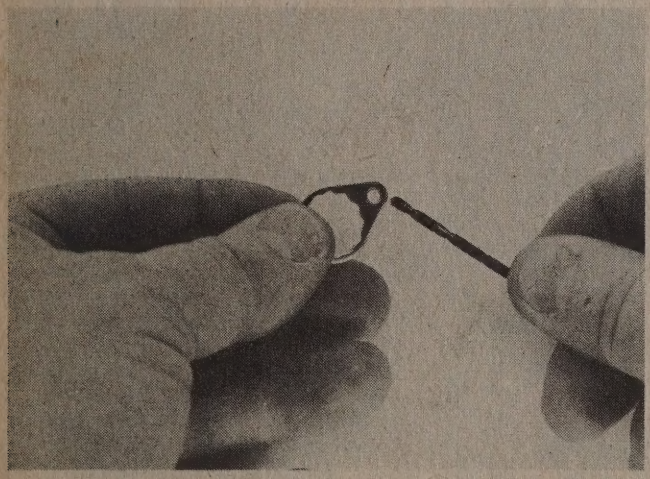
When the retrieve gear is changed, so, too, must the pinion gear be changed. The combination creates what Shakespeare labels "hunter gear teeth." After a cast or free spooling, the teeth on both gears which touch at the start begin to rotate and never meet again, they sort of hunt for each other until stopped and a cast is repeated. The hunt then begins again with new partners. Gears manufactured in this style tend to wear more evenly than standard high speed 4.7:1 gearing.

Being designed basically for freshwater application, the 1984 Presidential is equipped, like all other similarly manufactured reels with a small handle. The two oversized knobs are a plus feature, but still small in diameter leverage. The double handle characteristic does not hamper its operation by any means, but the addition of a larger handle in place of a small one is extremely beneficial to saltwater anglers. This innovation was brought to my attention by a friend named Neil Buckler, of Lake Ronkonkoma, who is one of those gifted, imaginative anglers I spoke of previously.

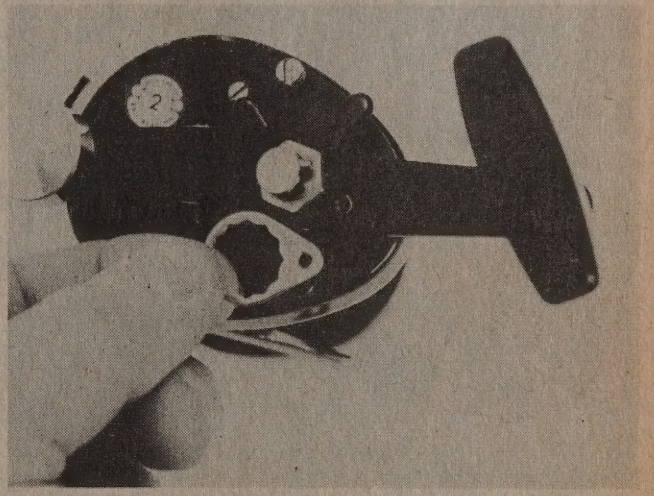
By taking an Ambassadeur 9,000/10,000 handle (#9370) and adapting it to a 1984 reel, the President gained the power and leverage demanded by saltwater use. The conversion is not a difficult function but care must be taken to center the handle before tightening.

First, discard the original Presidential handle by removing the small set screw holding the lock washer and then detach the crank nut. Both are threaded off in standard counterclockwise motion. Remove the post screw and its tiny washer, then lift the handle off the gear stem post. Place the new ABU handle onto the gear post, centering it as best as possible for the time being, and replace the tiny washer and post screw. Thread the crank nut onto the post being careful that it is straight. Hand tighten only, for this, too, is merely a holding position at present. Take the chromed lock washer that fits over the crank nut and with a 1/8 inch drill, enlarge the set screw hole to this diameter. Place the lock washer onto the crank nut and position it so the enlarged hole fits directly over the threaded hole in the handle. Should they not match up evenly, shift the handle without detaching any screws one way or the other until both holes form the complete circle. Remove the lock washer and tighten the crank nut securely. Place the lock washer back over the nut and align the screw holes. Adjusting the crank nut to a tighter or slightly looser position should help center both holes directly on center over one another. Take the screw which comes with the ABU handle (#8907) and place a tiny bit of reel lubricant on the threads, then insert it into the lock washer hole and tighten securely. Lubricant is employed to prevent a permanent bonding of two different metals when used in saltwater.

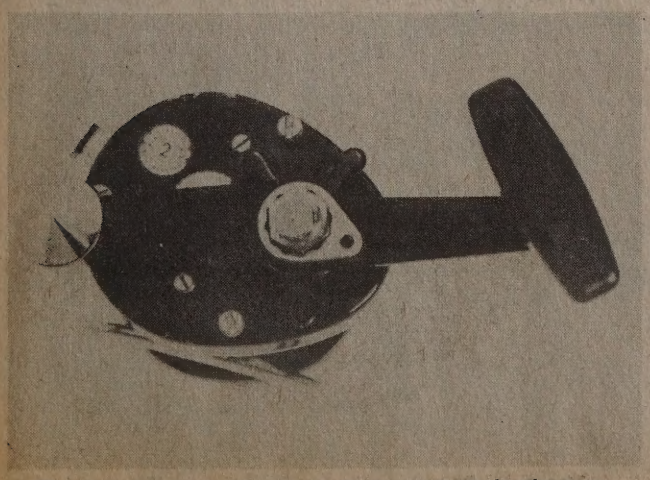
With this innovation, the reel may not have the cosmetic appeal prior to the change, but it does become a highly functional piece of equipment for managing big fish. Between boosting the gear ratio and adding oversized handle, the President gains supplementary power that can only result in a more efficient unit. Such equipment can often spell better scores in the fishing game.



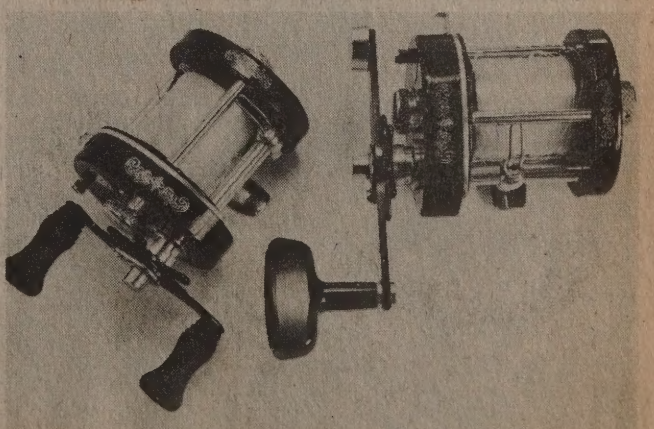
The lock washer screw hole must be enlarged to 1/8 inch diameter so that the set screw of the 9000 handle can pass through it.



After the handle nut is in place the lock washer is positioned over it and adjusted for alignment.



The lock washer screw hole must align perfectly over the handle hole before the nut is tightened securely.



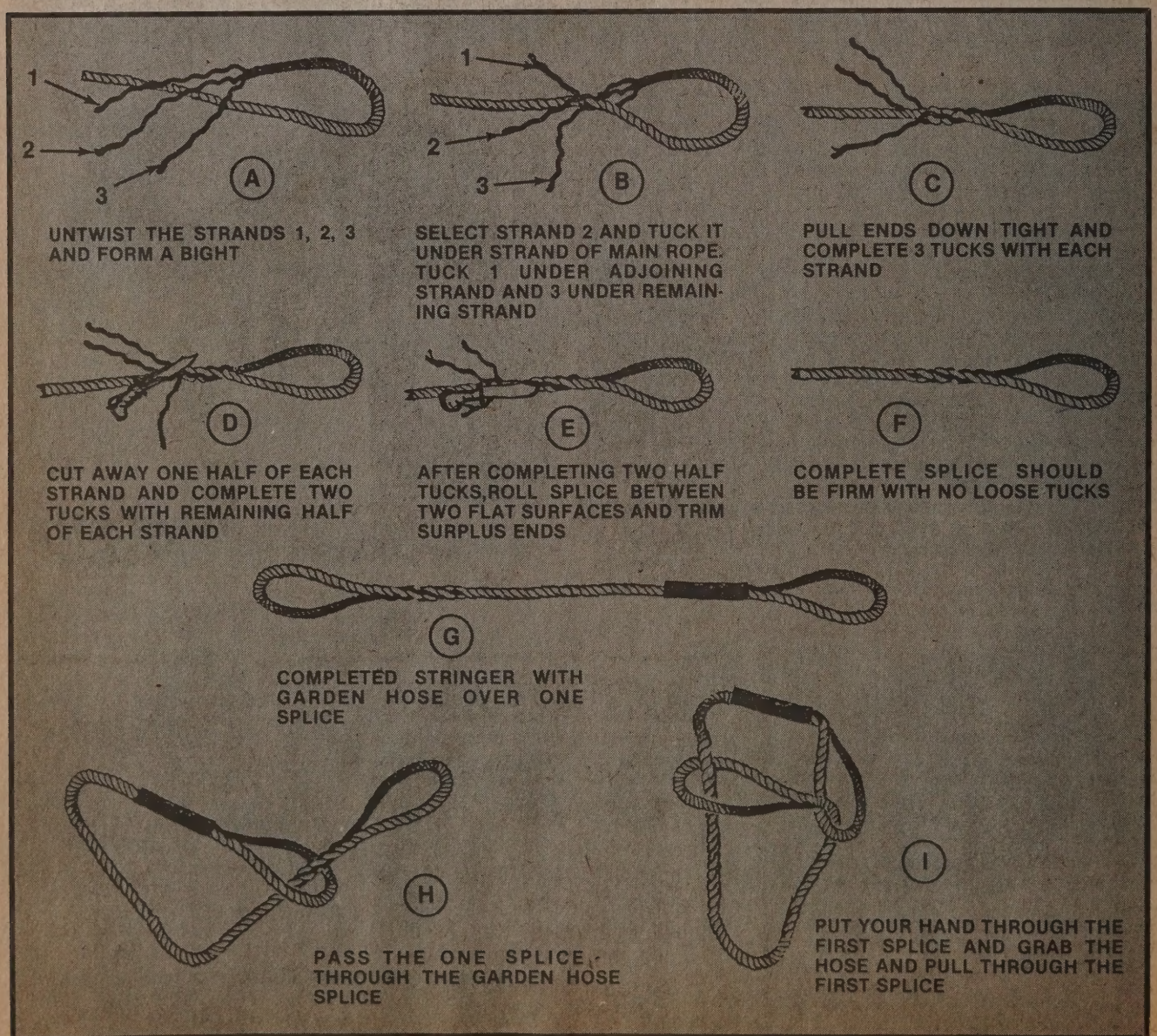
Two Presidential reels, one with a regular handle (left) and the powerful model supporting an ABU 9000 handle and unseen 5 to 1 gears.

HOW TO MAKE A SPLICED EYE STRINGER

by Mike Campanelli

Being in a hurry to catch the high outgoing tide one night, it was no wonder that when I got to my favorite jetty, my stringer was missing. While not as important as creepers or a long handled gaff, a stringer can be an important piece of equipment. The need here was to keep any fish caught from getting lost in, or washed off the wet rocks and to carry them off the jetty at the end of the night. Sure enough, that night there was some action with some nice weaks and teen size bass making for an enjoyable evening. Since the stringer was nice and safe in the back of my buggy, a little improvisation was needed. The closest thing to a stringer with me was the strap on my plug bag. The strap enabled me to hold onto and get the fish off the jetty. But the long walk back to West End parking lot became longer and more awkward with each step. The lopsided load of fish and plug bag swinging back and forth made frequent stops necessary.

Along the way I came across a marker float to which was still attached a length of yellow nylon rope, the kind you find all over the beach in the spring and fall when the netters are most prevalent. Well, I didn't know who lost it, but I cared little as the rope would be the answer to my problem. Cutting about a six foot piece, I tied a loop in one end and passed the other end through the gills and out the mouths of the fish. Tying the second end to the loop and hoisting the fish over my shoulder, I was once again on my way. Now rod, gaff, plug bag and fish were all comfortably balanced, but by the time the parking lot was reached, my hand felt as if it would fall off. The weight


1
2
3
A
UNTWIST THE STRANDS 1, 2, 3 AND FORM A BIGHT
1
2
3
B
SELECT STRAND 2 AND TUCK IT UNDER STRAND OF MAIN ROPE. TUCK 1 UNDER ADJOINING STRAND AND 3 UNDER REMAINING STRAND
C
PULL ENDS DOWN TIGHT AND COMPLETE 3 TUCKS WITH EACH STRAND
D
CUT AWAY ONE HALF OF EACH STRAND AND COMPLETE TWO TUCKS WITH REMAINING HALF OF EACH STRAND
E
AFTER COMPLETING TWO HALF TUCKS,ROLL SPLICE BETWEEN TWO FLAT SURFACES AND TRIM SURPLUS ENDS
F
COMPLETE SPLICE SHOULD BE FIRM WITH NO LOOSE TUCKS
G
COMPLETED STRINGER WITH GARDEN HOSE OVER ONE SPLICE
H
PASS THE ONE SPLICE THROUGH THE GARDEN HOSE SPLICE
I
PUT YOUR HAND THROUGH THE FIRST SPLICE AND GRAB THE HOSE AND PULL THROUGH THE FIRST SPLICE

of the fish had caused the rope to cut into the hand, cutting off circulation and making it numb. Now, anyone who's fished the surf has encountered similar discomfort I'm sure. The usual stringers made of sash or bead chain are murder on the hands. While a great way to keep fish when waist deep in water, most stringers are not practical for carrying a catch any distance.

All I could think of while putting my gear into the buggy was that there had to be a better way.

The next day an idea came while I was splicing an eye in the end of a new line. The line was over 30 feet long and had splices at both ends. So why not just shorten it to stringer size and add a handle? All day the questions of where and how to add a handle kept me thinking. A lot of crazy ideas came and went and the rope splices were twisted and turned into all kinds of knots till I came up with a little trick.

Getting home that night, the first thing I did was to take the piece of nylon rope of the night before and splice eyes in both ends. When finished it measured about four feet overall. (Drawings A through F will show how a splice is made.) Now what was needed was a handle. Looking around my always cluttered garage, I found some old garden hose that had potential. I cut off four inches and then slipped it over one loop splice. A couple of wraps of vinyl tape at both ends of the hose kept it from moving and a handle was formed.

The trick that makes the stringer work is how the loops are put to use. Pass the loop without the handle through the loop with the handle. Then reach through the first loop and grab the hose handle and pull it back through. (Drawings H and I show how.) What I've found is that when the stringer is used this way, no matter how much weight is carried the knot doesn't tighten up or close up on your hand. Also, after carryng fish it is a simple matter to take apart: just release the handle. The hose makes for a good grip with no discomfort. The shortness of the stringer makes it perfect to carry fish over the shoulder and high off the ground and makes the weight easy to handle. This can be important when jumping from rock to rock on some jetty in the middle of the night.

Due to the ease of making them and the slight cost involved, I make them up a dozen at a time. I attach one to each surf bag, handle of each bait pail, surf belt and leave the rest in the trunk of the car or back of the beach buggy. This way I never have to worry about being without a stringer. In a pinch, I even use it as a short, but functional stringer if fishing waist deep in the surf. You can make up a longer version if you plan to use it on a regular basis under such conditions.

So, if you want to give your hands a break this season, just take a couple of minutes and splice yourself a spliced eye stringer.

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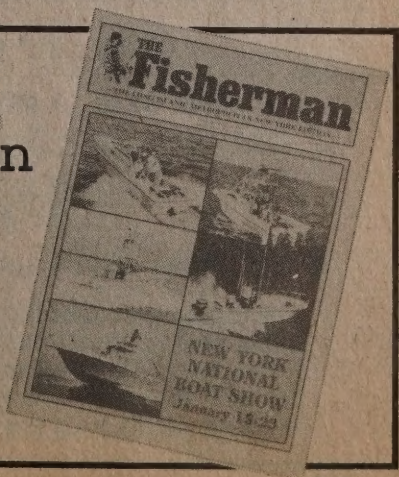


WIRE LINE TROLLING RODS

by Kevin Bogan

Fishermen who believe that trolling is the best method of consistently catching blues and striped bass often choose wire line as an aid in getting trolling lures to run deep.

The wire is heavy and cuts through the water better than monofilament or dacron lines. The use of wire can often help to eliminate the cost of "extras," such as expensive downriggers and planers. Usually an assortment of two to six ounce drail sinkers is all that is needed to help get your trolling lures down deep.

If a large bass or bluefish grabs hold of a trolling lure and the hook was not set deep enough, the ensuing battle could last for only a short time with the fish eventually working itself free. On top of losing precious fishing time and swearing to yourself that it was a "trophy fish," the use of wire may have been the savior. Wire does not stretch. When the fish goes one way and the boat is going the other way you can bet that the strength of the wire will be 'positive' in "sticking it" to him. Remember, there is nothing worse than hearing a sorry fella cry about the one that got away. After all, they're all "giants" aren't they?!

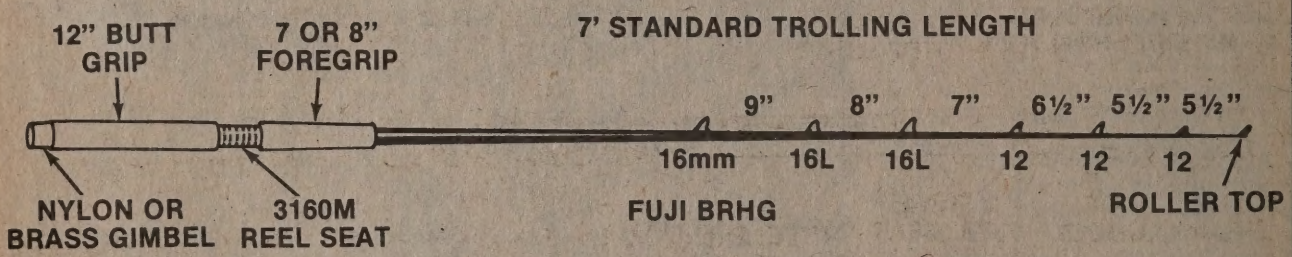
Blanks: One must take into consideration that wire line rods can come in lengths ranging from seven to ten feet and at times, as long as 11 feet. The longer rods act as both an outrigger and fishing rod. The rod holders on the boat must be mounted nearly parallel to the transom for an effective outrigger setup. The extra length (8-11') should give you a nice enough spread on trolling lines to prevent tangles.

It is also believed that a longer rod helps to tire a fish faster. This is true, but in the case of a big fish the longer rod can also wear down the fisherman. This is not the rod that a fishing chiropractor would recommend, but don't be afraid of this rod either. They provide excellent swimming action for bunker spoons and plugs and keep umbrella and gorilla rigs running true and tangle free.

Regulation rod blanks in the 30 lb. class prove ideal for several reasons. They are slightly more compact, averaging seven feet in length. They provide 30 lb. class strength and fishability, making them good general purpose rods for trolling blues, albacore, small tuna, stripers and are just right for cod or deep water ling and whiting fishing.

The blank you choose should have a good amount of wall thickness. Wire line rods have been known to experience the roughest treatment.

DIAGRAM 1



BLANKS These blanks have the same characteristics concerning power, action, and plenty of wall thickness. They also use the same components and guide spacing.
DYNAFLEX 3084 - #18 tip
AUSTRALIAN 784 - #14 tip (underwrap with thread)
NATIONAL 0705 - #16 tip

GRIPS 12" buttgrip and 7 or 8" foregrip - PVC, HYPALON OR CEL TEX

REEL SEAT LAKELAND #3160 or 4160 machine hood brass crome

GUIDES FUJI BRHG #16, 16L, 16L, 12, 12, 12
Tip: AFTCO hardened roller top on all rods
MILDRUM MES #carboloy 18, 16, 14, 14, 12, 12

SPACING From tip - 5½, 5½, 6½, 7, 8, 9"

The Shakespeare bottle blank (0425) is an excellent blank for this type of fishing. It has a super strong "butt" built into the blank itself. A Gimbel and a 3160 seat fit right onto the blank and a 5" foregrip is used. The main feature of this blank is the ultra strong butt section that can withstand the constant insertion and removal with the use of rod holders. Guide spacing is the same as with above blanks.

They get banged into, stepped on, bounced on, gaffed, smashed with trolling weights and spoons—you name it. This is tackle you have to feel sorry for.

Medium or slow actions will work best. The mid-section on a rod like this gives a soft, shock absorbing bend to the rod that gives the trolling lures plenty of seductive movements.

This softness shows its value when a big striper makes his bid at disintegrating a bunker spoon. The extra "give" in this action will save broken lines, lost tackle, and no doubt a few extra fish in the cooler by day's end.

I will give three different "component diagrams" for three different lengths. Ask other fishermen's opinions and also consider the boat's size and fishing area within the boat. Feel free to trade ideas or alternate components from rod to rod as you see fit for you.

Reel Seat: Only the heavy duty machine hooded reel seats should be used with this style rod. Trolling quality reels and a full spool of Monel or stainless wire equal up to a lot of weight. Pressure from all directions is constant and unending. Stamped hood or graphite seats could fail under these circumstances. I have repaired a lot of rods that have had the cheaper seats on them, and it proves that a machine hood is the way to go. Either you pay now or you pay later.

Guides: Obviously the constant dragging back and forth motion of wire across a guides' surface will certainly raise havoc with anything but the hardest materials. Two different guides fit the bill here. The Fuji BRHG trolling guide has an inner aluminum oxide guide ring that has a very hard surface that is almost "groove proof." I have seen very few worn aluminum oxide rings and the people who have shown them to me claim to have gotten plenty of mileage out of them. These guides feature an extra sturdy "grasp the rod" style frame that can take all the punishment you can give it. These guides perform extremely well with wire and provide plenty of elevation on a bent over trolling rod.

The Mildrum MES are a "center braced" tungsten carbide or Carboloy guide. They are one of the hardest guide surfaces available today making them great for wire line. These guides have long been the standard for wire and work just as well now. A word of caution with carboloy guides. They are very expensive and do not have protection of any kind against abuse. Their super hard guide surface has no "give" when smacked against a bit, cleat, or bow rail. They could break, making them unusable for the day.

I advise the use of AFTCO "hardened" roller tops on all wire line rods. The roller and frame are made from an extra hardened stainless steel that resists grooving or damage from the wire.

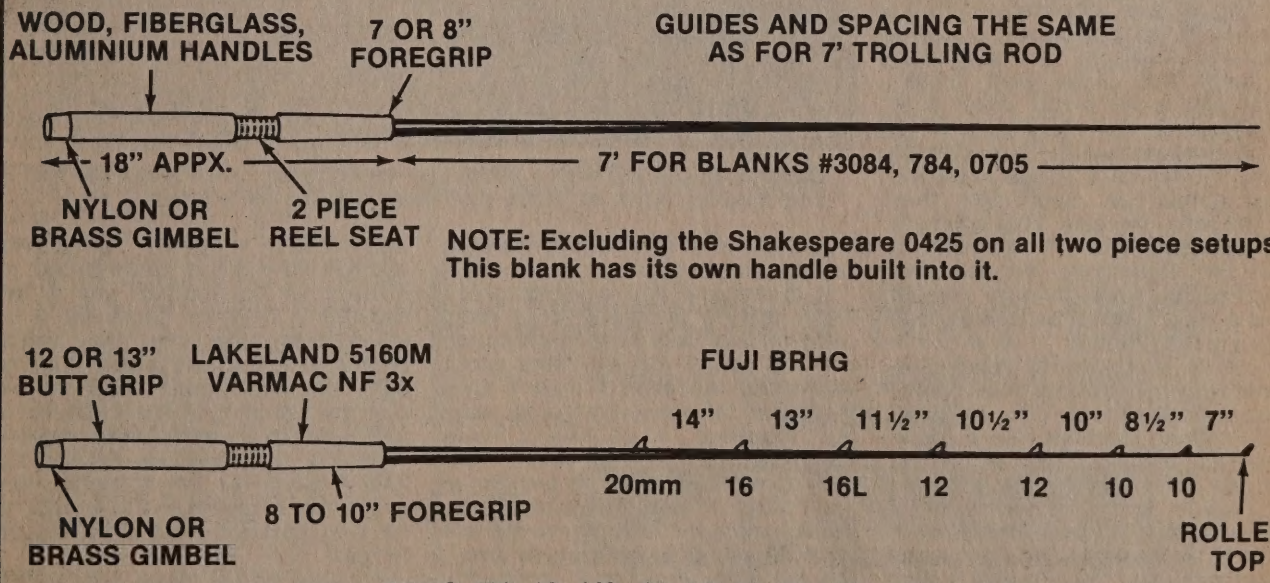
Grips: I personally feel that any soft foam grip, such as PVC, Hypalon or CEL TEX will work well on the butt end of the rod. It is commonly believed that the foams break down after heavy duty use, however, the "spongy" style grips should last a long time and can be replaced at a small cost.

Wood Handles: Wood handles on the longer rods are good for a couple reasons: they can handle the constant abuse of bouncing around and in and out of the rod holder, plus they allow the same blanks (excluding Shakespeare 0425) to be used in a two piece machine hooded seat setup, thus making it an ideal 8'-8' 3" rod. Any Varmac or Lakeland machine hood seat will do. Be sure to measure butt diameter of blank and ferrule inside diameter for matching fit.

Fiberglass Butts: Made by Shakespeare, these are the same butt sections used on their famous, all purpose bottle blank. They are double thick fiberglass and can really take a beating. This is a deluxe fishing product.

Aluminum Butts or **Unibutts:** These are really the toughest of them all; nothing even comes close. Made by AFTCO, they come in a variety of sizes to match the weight class and butt diameter of the blank of your choice.

DIAGRAM 2


WOOD, FIBERGLASS, ALUMINIUM HANDLES
7 OR 8" FOREGRIP
GUIDES AND SPACING THE SAME AS FOR 7' TROLLING ROD
18" APPX.
7' FOR BLANKS #3084, 784, 0705
NYLON OR BRASS GIMBEL
2 PIECE REEL SEAT
NOTE: Excluding the Shakespeare 0425 on all two piece setups. This blank has its own handle built into it.
12 OR 13" BUTT GRIP
LAKELAND 5160M VARMAC NF 3x
FUJI BRHG
14" 13" 11½" 10½" 10" 8½" 7"
20mm 16 16L 12 12 10 10
NYLON OR BRASS GIMBEL
8 TO 10" FOREGRIP
ROLLER TOP

GUIDES	BRHG #20, 16, 16L, 12, 12, 10, 10 - #12 rollertop (underwrap)
GRIPS	12 or 13" buttgrip PVC, HYPALON, or CEL TEX 8 to 10" foregrip PVC, HYPALON or CEL TEX
REEL SEAT	LAKELAND 5160M or VARMAC NF3X
SPACING	From tip 7, 8½, 10, 10½, 11½, 13, 14"
ALTERNATES	FENWICK SU #1267 - 10½' (cut off butt if desired) LAMIGLAS WSB 136 3M - 11½' - #14 tip (6" off bottom for 11' rod, 18" off bottom for 10' rod)

CONFESSIONS OF A NOVICE BAITFISHERMAN

Part Three — *by William A. Muller*

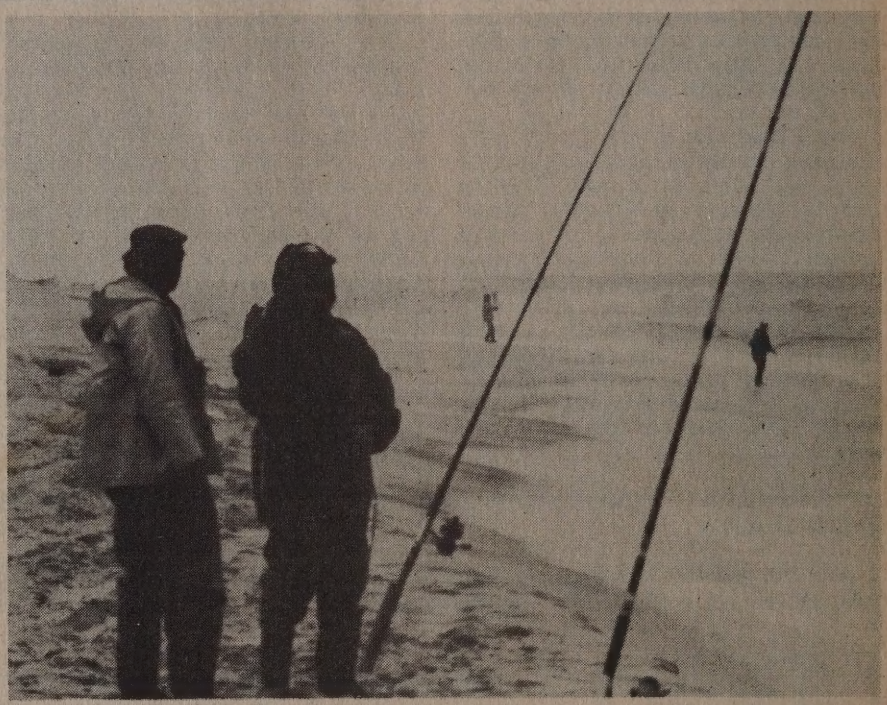
Surfmen with a working knowledge of baitfishing have had the edge over those tossing artificials in recent years.

Previously we published a two part series of the same title in two winter issues. The motivation for authoring those articles comes from my increasing interest in and practice of baitfishing in the surf. I've said it before and I'll say it again: it's all John Fritz' fault. Before I started fishing with him I was a purist. The thought of slinging a chunk of bunker was totally alien to me. Now, John mixes his techniques; and very effectively I might add. He knows his business when it comes to bait as well as artificials. It was inevitable that sooner or later I would be drawn to the surf with bait rigs and bait.

My initial experiences with bait fishing were not too rewarding. At times no fish were caught by anyone while at other times some fish were caught by others while I caught nothing. I was becoming totally turned off to baitfishing. I was experiencing events that reinforced my belief that plugs were better. Then came a fall a few years back when there were plenty of blues along the south shore surf but few of those toothy critters would take an artificial. They wanted bait. Specifically they wanted eels—live eels. That was both an expensive run of fish and a rewarding experience. For the first time I caught what could be thought of as a lot of fish on bait. That they were big didn't hurt!

In spite of my early disappointments with bait fishing I was forced again and again to try. Why, you ask? First, nothing succeeds like success; even if it comes in limited doses. Second, John kept pushing me to keep trying. Third, I knew it was a technique that I needed to learn in order to expand my skills as a surf fisherman and become a more well-rounded angler in the suds.

I got to the point last year where I was regularly but intermittently successful. I wasn't comfortable yet, but I wasn't uncomfortable either—if you know what I mean. I was in-between. I'd rather use artificials because I felt secure with these, yet I didn't reject bait altogether because I knew there were times when it was bait that would catch the fish. Since I produced some fish, the game plan that called for bait seemed sound: certainly more sound than the year before and a lot more attractive than the year before that.



Daytime baitfishing with a buddy can be enjoyable even when the fish aren't biting. After all, there's all those fish stories to swap.

It is amazing how much one can learn in even a portion of a short season. This year was no exception and this year I learned more about baitfishing in the surf than I have learned all the previous six or so years put together. I believe I have progressed to the point where I am truly comfortable with the technique. I still prefer to use artificials because there is more motion and more direct involvement, but there were times this fall when I enjoyed it thoroughly and actually selected to use bait over artificials because I was having a good time. What made this fall's baitfishing so much more enjoyable than in previous years? First, I caught fish, big ones, consistently. Second, it was mostly daytime fishing and my neck doesn't break when watching a rod in daylight like it does at night when you crane to see that tip in the dark. Third, there were a lot of guys fishing and during the dry periods there was always some good company to chat with to help pass the hours. Fourth, it was warm. In a way the fall weather was not the kind that spurs on the fall fishing; yet in another way it did because it held the blues for a lot longer time span than they would otherwise be inclined to stay. Fishing bait, standing around watching the rod, and handling eels and chunks of bait is sure a lot easier at 55 degrees than it is at 30 degrees. Finally, the fishing along the entire south shore was close, negating the long trips to far away places and the high expense for gas.

So much for the background. What did I learn? The problem is where to start. Let's plunge right in and start with hooks. Many surf fishermen use an O'Shaughnessy style hook; typically 4/0 to 6/0. Many anglers swear by this hook, yet my difficulties with the hook began with the very first pick-up I had on bait. It bothered me immensely that in order to improve one's hook-up ratio, that one had to let the fish run with the bait for long periods (up to 10 seconds or so). I reported this in Part II of this series as one of my "discoveries" about bait

fishing in the surf. However, I was still bothered by this because allowing the fish to run and eat meant that most fish were hooked deeply and thus could not be released. I prefer to release my big fish for a variety of reasons that I won't go into here. Also, it became apparent to me that often the fish running with the bait would detect something odd about the bait and drop it. Thus, allowing the fish a good runoff to eat the bait did improve my hook-up ratio, but not enough.

It was about a year or so ago that John Fritz began to experiment with an offset style hook. The first night he used that hook I couldn't make the trip and the next day he reported to me that he caught a good number of fish and didn't miss one. During our next outing I took a look at the hook, but I wasn't happy with it. Somehow the hook looked too flimsy. The shank is rather thin for its size and the point too, looks a bit weak. Now, I must admit that I did not test that hook either on a work bench or on fish. I didn't like the looks of the thing and decided to try a Siwash. John still uses the offset hook and is still very happy with it.

Many surf fishermen use Siwash hooks and although many insist it does the job, others also complain about too many lost fish. I did a bit of investigation and I found that among those who used Siwash hooks, the typical size in use was 5/0 or 6/0. Take a look at the Siwash hooks you have and it will quickly become apparent that Siwash hooks of that size look smaller than the same sizes in other hooks. One of my conclusions was that in order to get more hook-ups the fishermen needed a hook whose point and barb protruded through the bait. I found a box of 9/0 Siwash hooks amongst my tackle. It occurred to me that here was the answer. A longer point and a bigger bite might provide for better hook-ups. As it turned out this was a good formula. My hook-ups are very good now and through October and November I lost only a mere handful of the fish that picked me up.

Onward! Was it now possible to hit the fish almost as soon as they picked up the bait and started to run? I had to try it even if it meant a lot of lost fish. To my surprise and satisfaction the quick hitting style combined with the big Siwash hook was the right combination. From that day forward virtually all the fish I caught were hooked in the mouth. Those fish fought better and were a snap to unhook and release. The only time I had blues take the bait deep were on two occasions when they were quite thick. I have reasoned that the intense competition for food among members of the school caused a frantic feeding pattern compared to situations in which only a few fish were around. Thus, the blues rushed up to a bait and wolfed it down not allowing an opportunity for other blues to get that bait. When the competition is not significant, blues may pick up a piece of bait gingerly and spit it out several times. The bottom line to all of this is that I do wait for the fish to "go" before setting the hook: sometimes that may be minutes and sometimes only a second or two.

Happily, I have been able to release almost all my bait-caught fish this fall. Even when not releasing there is an added benefit to the "quick strike" approach. Mouth hooked fish fight better than gut hooked fish. Therefore, in most cases the blues took off for England once they felt the steel of the hook. Fish that jump into a hard fight will exhaust themselves quickly compared to lethargic fighting gut hooked fish; however, mouth hooked fish will not exhaust themselves as thoroughly as gut hooked fish. It is not uncommon for gut hooked fish to be impossible to beach. The hook in the gut makes them reluctant to pull back hard until they are faced with something worse; being beached. Then with a large energy reserve they will give it everything they've got and the result is an almost totally exhausted fish. At times a fish that is hooked deeply can be released if the hook can be removed quickly and without a lot of bleeding, but that fish will take a long time to revive and in an ocean surf the task may be almost impossible.

I believe that I have learned a few other things in addition to the "quick strike" approach. I have come to be amazed at the variety of subtle applications of techniques that are possible.

One of the elements of baitfishing technique is the leader from swivel or fish finder rig to the hook. One of the factors to be considered, say many experienced baitfishermen, is the length of the leader. Frankly, before this year's experience I never thought about this seriously. Sure, I'd heard discussions about it, but I foolishly thought to myself that this was a "silly" criterion. Now I know better and in the future I'll try hard not to dismiss any opinion on any facet of fishing until I've had a chance to test it thoroughly.

What remains a semi-mystery to me is why the length of the leader (mono or wire) should make a difference. I can guess that it might have something to do with shying off the sinker and hardware or the potential for wild swinging in a strong current. Although I have my suspicions, I cannot be sure and I feel uneasy. This will be a matter for further study in 1983. I'll bet that many of you already know the whys of this. Please write to me so we can all share this information.

At this point I confess that all I know is that I make up leaders of different lengths and if one doesn't work or doesn't "feel" right ("feel" cannot be translated), I change to one of a different length. If I have a short one on, I'll switch to a long one and vice versa. Sometimes you'll throw the darn thing out and after several hours of zero productivity—bang—you're in! Other times it doesn't matter. Why? I can't say for sure, I can only guess. Perhaps the length of the leader didn't matter or perhaps there were no fish around. You know lack of productivity can be a simple matter of no fish in the area.

I'm afraid this week's column was more background and philosophy than anything else. I offer it as necessary for those who did not read Parts I and II. I hope that the rest of you can hang in there until next week. Next week I'll discuss what I've learned about baits, rigs, rods, sand spikes, tides, and beach characteristics. Needless to say, I hope my confessions bring a smile of recognition to your face.

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NEW HOTSPOTS FOR WINTER STEELHEAD

by Lou Truppi

When you mention New York state steelhead trout fishing, one river is probably mentioned more than any other on the East Coast. That is the Salmon River in Pulaski, New York.

Though correctly billed as a top producer of those giant rainbow trout in both size and numbers, there is at times one drawback to angling in this river, which is simply crowds. During prime time steelhead runs, fishing room is definitely at a premium. Correspondingly, many good streams within this region go virtually unfished by visiting anglers.

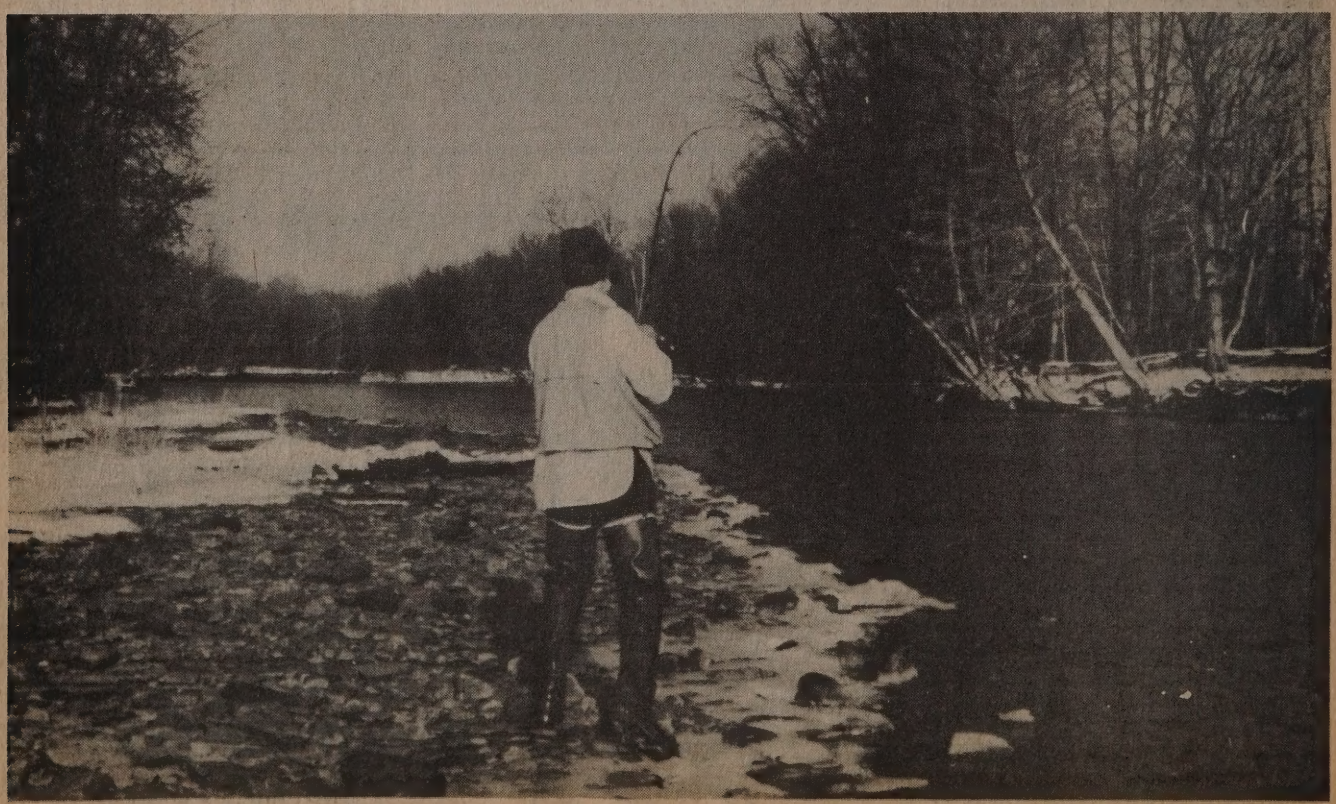
Although I guide anglers during the fall and winter steelhead runs, I attempt to fish weekdays whenever possible. Weekend angling can get crowded and often does. I've attempted to circumvent this problem by finding new fishing areas for my clients and myself. I fully realized these new areas would have to be within the same travel span for anglers coming from the Metropolitan area and contain streams that would maintain solid runs of the big bows. Well, in short, here's a report of what I've found this past season.

The Black River, located north of Pulaski in the town of Dexter, enjoys an early season salmon run as well as a steelhead run throughout the colder months. This river runs slow and deep with a limited number of rapids, but sustains a good population of big steelhead. Drifter lures, small spinners and spawn sacs are good producers throughout this river. An interesting by-product to steelhead angling are the brown and lake trout that find their way up this river in the spring and early fall. The best stream fishing occurs upstream of where Rt. 180 crosses the river at the dam in the town of Dexter.

Sandy Creek, both north and south branches, are picturesque, rock strewn, fast, clean flowing prime steelhead waters. Both branches drain the Lakeview Wildlife Management areas adjacent to Lake Ontario. Excellent salmon and steelhead angling occur in the fall months, while the spring steelhead can be fantastic! Both creeks provide good steelhead angling upstream and downstream where they're crossed by the Rt. 3 bridge. Small lures, spinners, drifter baits, spawn sacs and salmon eggs provide action for steelheaders.

Trout and Orwell Brooks are tributaries of the Salmon River in the vicinity of Pineville above the Rt. 11 bridge. Although surrounded by private lands, both of these creeks attract big steelhead and huge brown trout. The bigger pools may be fished with lures, while bait, lures or flies are the best means to tempt these big bows on the beds. Salmon will often ascend these brooks in late summer. Both brooks maintain solid populations of brown trout all year and can be taken on flies or bait. I've taken brown trout to 18'' while tossing streamers when pursuing steelhead.

The Little Salmon River at Mexico Point provides fast steelhead and brown trout angling in both spring and fall. I've caught steelhead to 15 pounds from the upper region of this river above the Rt. 3 bridge. Outsize browns inhabit the lower region year-round while late summer and early fall provide the best big fish action. Lures such as small Rapalas, spinners, spoons and bait all produce in this river. Spring fishing at this



Fisherman fights a winter steelhead. Large fish are common during a winter run.

river's mouth can be fast paced just after ice-out. Big browns roam the shallows and find their way into this river and will hit quite readily on lures and baits.

Grindstone Creek, Catfish Creek and Butterly Creek located along the lower eastern shore and west shore of Lake Ontario all can provide steelhead angling opportunities. The deeper pools attract and hold the larger fish while the creek mouths can produce fast action when run conditions are right.

The Oswego River at Oswego attracts a substantial run of big steelheads as well as giant brown trout. Trollers and breakwater fishermen consistently take big fish in the fall and summer months. If you fish from a boat, lures get the nod, but if you're confined to shore, then lures and baits catch. Floated salmon eggs or spawn sacs on ultra-light noodle rod outfits prove their worth on this river.

Maxwell Creek just west of Sodus Point at Sodus Bay is a real sleeper. I have had excellent opportunities to fish this stream during the past spring. Since I charter my boat out of Sodus Point for giant brown trout and salmon during April and May, on my off days I can be found pursuing steelhead on the local creeks—Maxwell being one of the better choices. This creek produces a solid run with many good sized fish being taken on spawn sacs and lures.

Irondequoit Creek flowing through Rochester also maintains high quality steelhead angling. Irondequoit Bay provides outstanding early spring trolling opportunities for brown trout and big rainbows. This bay ranks as one of the best trout producers on the western shore of Lake Ontario. I fished this bay for the first time last spring and found excellent trout fishing and caught rainbow trout to 15 pounds while trolling with spoons. Since the Bay maintains a substantial run, so does its feeder creek with the lower half providing the best angling.

The Genessee River on the other side of town maintains an equally good run of big fish. This river is getting better by the day and the standard steelhead lures and baits will take these fish. A strong spring run occurs on the river as does a decent fall salmon and winter steelhead run.

Oak Orchard Creek to the west attracts a strong run of steelhead below the dam at Waterport. Salmon, steelhead and brown trout may be taken in this area. This is big water, but light tackle, line and baits produce best.

Moving west again, Eighteen Mile Creek, Twelve Mile Creek and Keg Creek all provide winter steelhead runs. In fact, some of the region's biggest 'bows are regularly taken from them. As with the other streams, the popular approach is to work the holes casting from the bank. Spawn sacs, salmon eggs, and drifter lures all give a good account of themselves on these rivers.

Further to the west, the Niagara River is gaining strong promise as a producer of big steelhead. This is big dangerous water, but the large rainbows abound here. Care must be taken when scaling the icy canyon walls that lead to the better water. It stands to reason that if it's cold, such as in the fall, winter and early spring months, there will be ice around. Speaking from experience at the Niagara River Gorge, the shore line is treacherous. It's littered with moss covered rocks which are periodically covered and uncovered by the constantly fluctuating water levels. This condition is multiplied tenfold in the winter months for now those same rocks are ice covered. Ice creepers are a must, for those who walk into the Niagara Gorge it can be dangerous and extreme caution must be exercised by all anglers.

The lower Niagara offers great steelhead and salmon angling during the fall, winter and spring months. If it's less people and more big fish, then this river deserves a visit. Remember, always use caution or the buddy system when fishing this river. Standard baits and lures produce with large spawn sacs and heavy spoons providing best results.

There are a number of lesser known waters that also can produce fine steelhead angling opportunities if the visiting angler is willing to take the time to look around. In fact, all open water streams or tributaries might hold steelhead during the season. Small streams require the use of smaller lures or bait, while on the big river plugs, lures and baits may be utilized. Below the dams and on the slow, deep rivers, ultra-light lines and tackle get the nod. These rods are not the five foot ultra-light that Jersey anglers use, but rather a larger version called a steelhead or more recently, noodle rods. More about these outfits in future articles.

So, if your favorite Salmon River hole tends to get crowded, give these alternate streams a try, but bear in mind that except for the larger rivers, the steelhead runs are of a somewhat shorter duration. Recognizing peak run periods can lead to some exciting steelhead angling on any of these waters I've mentioned. It bears mentioning that northern-most streams receive the early runs, while to the west the runs occur later. Steelhead run as early as September in the north, while late May to early June can find fish to the west. Bear this in mind and you can have a very long steelhead season.

Fishing Lake Ontario's tributary streams can be nothing short of great from now through spring. The weather may get a little nippy during the colder months, but the winter steelheader can get along by picking breaks in the weather to foster his fishing urge. Hooking up with a tackle busting steelhead can warm a body mighty fast and this is what it's all about. Dress warm and give these great fish a try!

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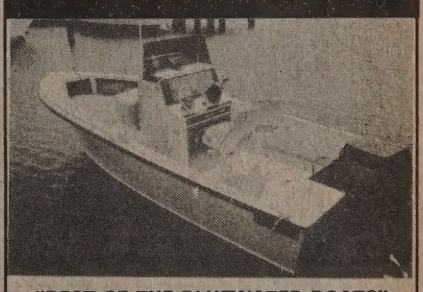

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★ 1982 ★
NORTH SHORE REVIEW

Part One — *by Martin Garrell*

Lumping the 1982 season on the Sound, along the North Shore, and on the North Fork, into so many paragraphs can be terribly misleading. Hitting the high spots, your scribe tends to wear rose colored glasses. Stressing the disappointments, on the other hand, makes one seem like "Gloomy Gus." However, looking at our own personal logs and the fishing reports that appeared in The Long Island Fisherman over the past year, we came across a number of interesting trends as well as a few fishing feats by local anglers: all these things are worth looking back on as we begin 1983.

Weather played a big role from April right through the end of the season. A freak early spring blizzard put more than six inches of snow on the ground over the East End and the snow-melt set back water temperatures by almost 10 degrees for nearly two weeks. Then, just when anglers settled into a normal pattern of late spring angling, a heavy coastal rainstorm flooded basements and estuaries with nine inches of water in early June. Fortunately, a cool summer kept inshore water temperatures from rising too fast, and the happy result was a phenomenal mixture of spring, summer, and fall fishing between July and September; but September and October played havoc with small boaters and rental stations because of frequent gales and northwesterlies, especially on weekends. Then November and December brought warmer than normal temperatures, and inshore bottom fishing continued to be good long after Thanksgiving. In fact, at the time I began to write this summary (mid-January), flounder fishermen were still scoring in South Shore bays and cod boats were still hauling tautog from offshore wrecks.

As far as bottom fishing was concerned, overall action was excellent for much of the season, and those anglers who tried to fill coolers with flounder, blackfish, and porgies probably did just that if they gave it a couple of decent shots.

Flounder were available throughout the year with virtually no letup, not even in midsummer. First reports reached us from the Shinnecock Canal (claimed by both North and South

Late October witnessed excellent flounder action from Orient to Eastchester Bay.

Forks) around Lincoln's Birthday, and Huntington Harbor and the Orchard Beach lagoon were producing by St. Pat's. By March 25, City Island boats were proclaiming catch rates as high as 20-40 fish per fare, and the creeks off the Peconic Bays had plenty of so-called "famine breakers"...those lean, watery flatties that taste so good simply because we haven't had fresh fish for months!

The traditional run of big, April Fool's flounder around Robin's Island was squelched by a runoff of melted snow from the freak April blizzard, but catches there and on the Sound returned to near normal by the third week of the month. Ronnie's in Huntington Station weighed the first genuine Sound snowshoe, Bill Kroos' three pounder, on April 29, and the Nostalgia off Mattituck and the Prowler from Greenport followed with 3 lb. 10 oz. and 4 lb. flatties, respectively.

Sea robins, windowpanes (sundials) and skates made fishing for Mattituck Inlet flounder difficult in May, but 3.12 and 3.14 fish were mentioned by the Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station along with reasonable catches of 1½ pound fish. The Aqua-Gem from Port Jefferson recorded a 4 lb. giant for Charlie Popke on May 20, and it wasn't until June 17 that Al Zimmerman aboard the Blue Albatross decked a bigger snowshoe, a 4½ lb. fish, off Gardiner's Island.

Gardiner's flounder action began about May 20 and lasted until quite late, but that pattern was the norm for the spring fish everywhere. The Peconic Star and the Brand X chased flatties from Gardiner's and New London into early June, and Dom Cerbone worked 1½ lb. flounder off the Norwalk Islands with the Apache from June 3 through the first week of August. In late June, Richie Jensen's Nancy Ann loaded 1½ and 2 pound flounder off New London, too.

Small boat fishermen were able to find Orient Point flounder in 20 feet of water virtually all summer long, and Dosoris Pond gave similar results for flounder die-hards in the Glen Cove area.

By mid-October, flounder pounders had returned to the fishing scene in earnest; Long Beach, Orient Point, and the Orient Ferry slip had become hotspots, and the North Fork creeks and Peconic River were in full swing by October 21. The end of the month found reports of excellent flounder fishing on the Sound all the way from Orient to Eastchester Bay. Although harbor flounder persisted through November, the body of larger Long Island Sound blackbacks appeared to be gone by Thanksgiving, and the last report of Peconic Bays fish came from East Marion in November. Creek fishing, however, was productive right through year's end.

Tautog were the second most reliable fish in all reports, and some remarkably large bulldogs were weighed at local shops and marinas in 1982.

The largest fully documented fish of the season were recorded in the fall. Ace Cottral at the Port of Egypt mentioned a huge fish of nearly 13 lbs., John Rainis reported a 12.1 blackfish taken on November 18, and Jack Rumpf weighed a 12 pounder at Jack's Bait on October 14. Nick Matic's bulldog, 10.9 , taken on the Nancy Ann, and Charles Scanlon's 10.11 fish, taken on the Peconic Gypsy, were both weighed on October 28 at the A.P. White Bait Shop in Greenport. Other huge tautog included a 11.4 fish from City Island and a 9.11 black taken off Shoreham by the Captain Hank. Bill Fetcer's 9.10 fish entered the lists of the Glen Cove Sport Shop in early July and was the largest fish we heard about in the spring run.

The blackfish season began with reports as early as May 6, but, within one week, tautog were crowding flounder for headlines all the way from City Island east to Cooper's Rock. By May 27 the eastern waters of the Sound, particularly in the Mattituck-Northville area, had more blackfish than blackbacks to offer, and that fishing held throughout the whole month of June. Lloyd's and Matinecock peaked about mid-June, too.

Tautog were again targeted by party boats as early as September 2 and started showing at points west,

(Continued on next page.)

Very good action with blackfish helped to make it a fine year overall for sinker bouncers. Here, the author nets a large tautog taken on light baitcasting tackle.

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e.g., Execution, a week later. Because of the red hot bluefishing, the mid-Island, North Shore, zone was sluggish in reporting tautog during most of the autumn season, but October 14 brought rave reviews from Ralph's Fishing Station, Dick's Sporting Goods, and the Caraftis Fishing Station in Mt. Sinai and Port Jeff.

Although small boats had problems getting out on the Sound consistently during the fall season due to prevalent northwesterlies, the large open boats fared better. The Plum-Gull-Fishers zone was so good that Greenport boats were urging fares to throw back blackfish under three pounds by October 28. Also, Clark Bellows' forays on small bottom pieces in the Peconics with the Captain Clark II turned out exceptionally well. Dom Cerbone's Apache pursued tautog from shallow reefs around Huntington and Eaton's all the way to Norwalk from October 7 until November 28. All party boats were catching well through the 28th, and the Lady Lil III, Ebb Tide, and Klondike VIII finished strong off Stamford and Norwalk in 45' to 70' of water.

The long porgy season which began with reports from Captain Marty's in New Suffolk on May 13 and concluded with a pod of fish encountered off Mulford Point on November 4, was an exceptional one. Large Peconic sea porgies appeared first in the South Race and Middle Grounds and were gone by mid-June. The Brand X switched from flounder to scup and had what Captain George Porter termed "the best day in 10 years" between the Middle Grounds and Jessup's on May 27 when some 500 big porgies flew over the rails.

Just about the time the Peconic fish declined in size (although the numbers of sand, medium, and breakfast sized porgies remained good throughout the summer), word of schools of large fish around the Huntington-Smithtown area reached us. By late July, anglers were cashing in on exceptional fishing in 40'-50' of water. Ronnie Ferraro weighed a 2.15 scup on or about August 12, and one month later, George Valentine put a 3.5 porgy on the scales at 4 Winds. Sound porgies were last noted off Mount Sinai about October 7, but the Mulford catch one month later may have included stragglers from that band.

The Plum Island and Gardiner's run of silver was mediocre except for brief periods in late June and early July. However, Greenport porgy hunters seemingly made up for a sluggish summer with some excellent September angling in deep water and strong tides off New London. At times, the porgies ran anywhere from 30 to 15 per bucket, and both Dave Brennan and George Porter guessed that some of the jumbos approached the 4 lb. class. Porter finished the porgy season in 130' of water on October 7 and Brennan stayed in the silver mines for two more weeks.

FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

WIRE TROLLING RIG FOR SALTWATER AND LANDLOCKED STRIPERS PLUS BIG BASS IS MADE BY THREADING A FEW INCHES OF WIRE THROUGH BAITFISH'S HEAD...THEN SLIDE AN EGG SINKER ON WIRE UNDER THE LIP. SECURE BY TWISTING HOOK.

OPTIONAL EGG SINKER

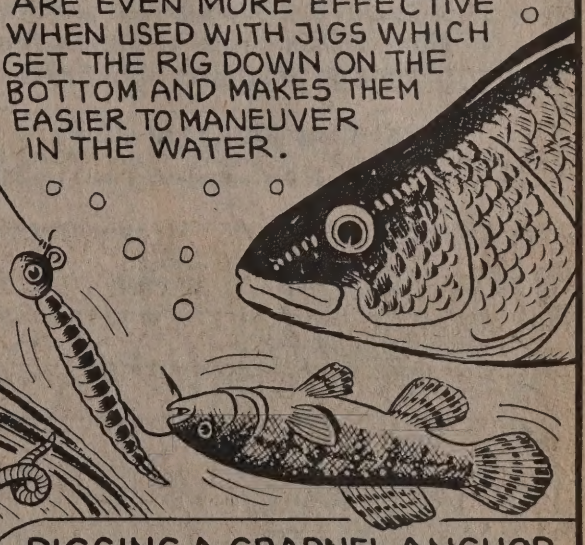
HERRING OR BUNKER IN SALTWATER, BIG SHINER FOR FRESH WATER BASS.

HOOK UPS OCCUR MORE OFTEN BECAUSE HOOK RIDES OUTSIDE THE BAITFISH.

HEAVY SINKER ON A HOOK IS ONE WAY TO FIND THE EXACT DEPTH OF THE WATER UNDER YOUR ICE FISHING HOLE. ADJUST THE LINE TO HOLD THE BAIT ABOUT A FOOT OFF THE BOTTOM WHICH IS THE JACKPOT DEPTH FOR MOST FISH IN WINTER.

WHEN TROUT REFUSE TO BITE IN THE EARLY SPRING, TRY YOUR LUCK WITH SUCKERS WHICH LIKE WORMS FISHED ON THE BOTTOM. COLD WATER SUCKER MEAT IS BONY BUT VERY FIRM, FLAKY AND SWEET.

MINNOWS AND KILLIES ARE PRIME WHITE PERCH BAIT BUT ARE EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE WHEN USED WITH JIGS WHICH GET THE RIG DOWN ON THE BOTTOM AND MAKES THEM EASIER TO MANEUVER IN THE WATER.



CHAIN PICKEREL HAVE BIG APPETITES SUCH AS A 3-POUNDER WITH A 6-INCH SUNFISH SWELLING ITS STOMACH. WHEN THESE JACK PIKE BECOME FINICKY, TRY SMALL INCH OR TWO SIZE MINNOWS FOR BAIT. THIS TIP GENERALLY PAYS OFF DURING WINTER.

RIGGING A GRAPNEL ANCHOR FOR FISHING ROCKS AND WRECKS WITH A BREAKAWAY CHAIN.

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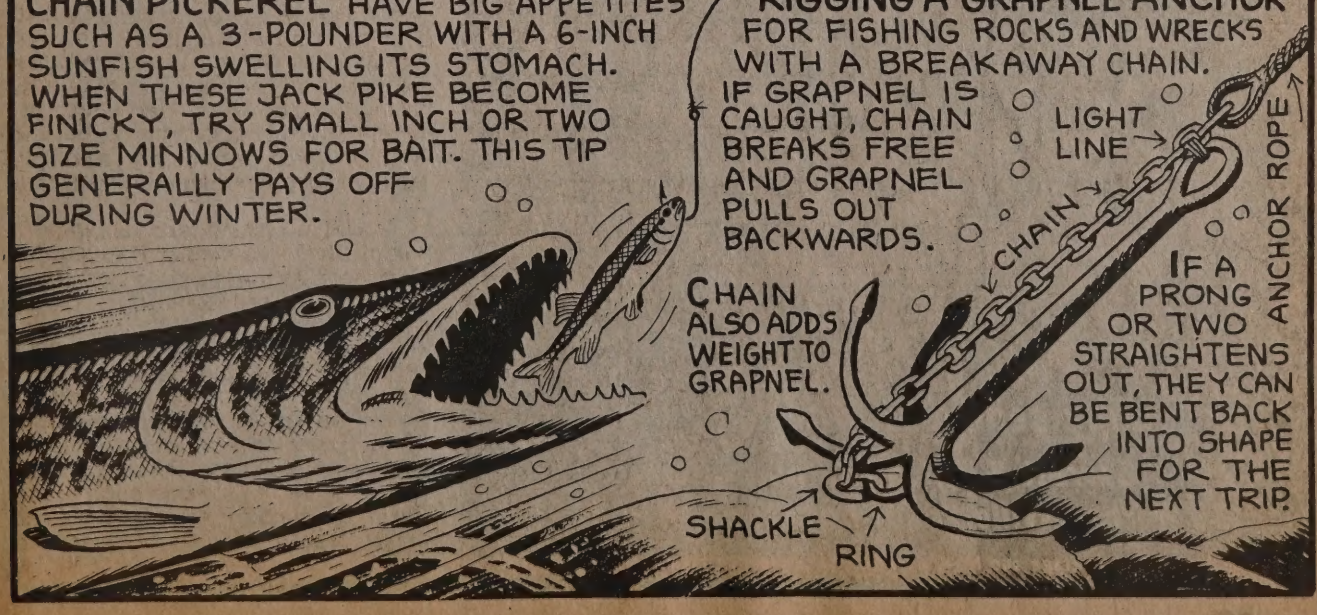
IF A PRONG OR TWO STRAIGHTENS OUT, THEY CAN BE BENT BACK INTO SHAPE FOR THE NEXT TRIP.

SHACKLE

RING



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ON WINNING THE POOL

by Matt Ahern

Winning the pool involves a certain amount of luck. But to those who make a habit of catching pool winners, luck has little to do with it.

There are two types of fishermen who enter big-fish pools. One is the fellow who participates for the sheer fun and personal zing it lends to the day's sport. The other, of course, is the fellow armed with well-planned designs on winning those extra bucks. It should come as no surprise that it is the second fellow who is more likely to succeed.

Luck? Sure, luck enters into the pool winning game; but rest assured the veteran sinker bouncer, particularly the one whose eye is on the pool, puts little faith in luck. It's the guy who knows his fishing—and his fish—who has that much envied string of pool-winning feats to his credit. This skill isn't learned in one day, I assure you. But it can be learned.

One more thing before we continue. If you've never won a big fish pool, or won so few for the amount of times you've entered, I have only one thing to say: you are doing something wrong! The proverbial law of averages may eventually win you a pool, but the consistent pool winner puts no faith in the law of averages. And one more thing: Don't expect success each time you go out party boat fishing. That will never happen. But you will greatly increase your chances of winning if you study the methods used by master fishermen. And that's all you can ask for.

You know, during the near 60 years I've devoted to party boat fishing, I've known scores of master fishermen, but I've known only one fisherman I would absolutely call a consistent pool winner. At weigh-in time, he was one tough man to beat; and I'll tell you in all truth—few succeeded in doing so. As a fish-happy boy of twelve or so, I fished beside this superb fisherman as often as possible. I copied his methods to the letter (or so I thought), but my efforts availed me naught. There was a certain something this crackerjack fisherman possessed which I tried desperately to imitate, but never could—and I certainly tried hard in my boy-like attempts to do so.

Even during those long-gone days when good-sized fish were more abundant than today, this old-timer's exploits were heralded by most fishermen who sailed aboard the Canarsie and Sheepshead Bay party boats. To one and all he was affectionately known as "Big Olaf" and I dare say some of you reading this remember him still. Actually, he would be a man hard to forget.

Big, burly, already along in years when I knew him (in his late 60s), Olaf was the master fisherman of all master fishermen. Winter and summer, dressed always in tattered yellow oilskins, standing poised on the bow, bareheaded, strands of gray beard whipping in the wind, his sausage-like fingers tightly gripped around the wooden sidewinder reel, he was ever on the alert for that delicate pick which told him an outsized fish was homing in on his bait.

Often as I fished beside him, he

(Continued on next page.)

Day's end sees the pool settled by a husky tautog.

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would nudge me and whisper in his broad Norwegian accent: "Big fish play around, Marty boy; big fish." I would instantly cease my fishing and ask: "How do you know, Olaf? How can you tell?" To which he would reply, not unkindly, "Hush, lad, hush. I know."

And to prove he really did, he would rear back at the precise instant necessary to set the hook; and like magic, the rod would bow, the reel creak under the straining line, and minutes later to the gaff or net would come a big cod, fluke, or blackfish.

Alerted by my boyish cries of wonder and excitement, the other passengers would cheer and shout advice (which as far as I was concerned was like carrying coals to Newcastle). If ever there was a fisherman who needed no advice from others, it was Big Olaf. No fisherman who wins seven big-fish pools in a row ever does. This was Big Claf's proud pool winning record and it will stand in my book as just that until someone comes along to better it.

As mentioned before, I used many of Olaf's methods and over the years have managed to garner my share of pools. Those methods I so faithfully copied, sad to say, rarely worked when Olaf was aboard; he was one fisherman it was just about impossible to outfish. But when this great fisherman wasn't aboard, or if I were party boat fishing on a vessel whose passengers had never heard of Big Olaf, I put his pool winning methods to use whenever I could. I found that as the years passed and my fishing experience increased, my pool winnings also increased. It was then when I began to put more and more faith in those things I'd been taught.

What now follows are some of those methods Olaf taught me in the long-ago. Many of these methods I've written about before, but as there are always new fishermen joining our ranks, I hope those who recognize what follows will forgive me for "conning" them. Those "new" fishermen must start somewhere.

Over the years I've made some modifications and changes to Olaf's methods. For instance, when wreck fishing for doormat fluke, Olaf always baited with quarter-pound slabs of raw beef liver! Because this was so messy to handle, I experimented and came up with summertime dogfish as a substitute and found it works as well—perhaps better.

Before we continue, let me repeat what I said earlier. If your intention is to win your share of the pools, **don't** rely on luck! Sure you can expect luck to play a part in your fishing at some time or another. All of us who have been dunking bait for any length of time have seen instances of this. In fact, it was a monster cod caught by a novice fisherman that put the skids under Big Olaf's winning streak. This is a prime example of luck. But don't rely on it!

Should you rely on luck alone, you will win few pools. It is as simple as that. The experienced fisherman, the fellow who has learned to deny Lady Luck for the fickle illusion she is—this is the fisherman who wins pools with more than an even chance.

When I go party boat codfishing, I always select the bow. I know most fellows consider the stern as the choice spot. I did, too, at one time; but only until Olaf showed me the error of my ways. Of course, there are days when it is impossible to fish the bow: cold winds, rough seas, etc. Only then will I settle for a stern spot. As for fishing any midship area for cod, I shun them like the plague.

Olaf's thoughts on bow fishing as I remember them were simple, to the point, and contained much common sense. "When you go for the cod, Marty boy," he told me many times, "get that bait out and away from other fishermen. With the open sea before you on the bow, it's easy." He seemed to know, for many of his pool winning cod, and most of mine, have been caught from the bow.

I also learned when codfishing to take my time getting the bait overboard when the boat first anchors-up. It was Olaf's opinion that all those sinkers striking bottom at the same time frightened the largest fish. He was firm in his belief that these particular fish became large by being a mite more cautious than their fellows. He must have had something here, too, for often his first cod of the day was also the pool winner.

Olaf had something to say about every phase of fishing. For instance, when he had a large cod ready for the gaff, he always asked the mate to gaff it in the head. Cod gaffed through the body—particularly the stomach area—rapidly lose body juices; and often pools are decided by ounces. But should it be difficult for the mate to honor such a request, don't insist. Inexperienced mates do not gaff codfish. If head-gaffing can safely be done, the mate will gladly do it for you.

As for those large fluke, I've already mentioned the beef liver bait and the dogfish slices, so there's no need to repeat. But the next time you are wreck fishing for porgies, sea bass, and what-have-you, put in your time catching what you want of these fish, and then sometime during the day, devote an hour or so to catching these pool-winning fluke which frequently prowl the offshore grounds looking for easy pickings.

If you haven't got a dogfish for bait, don't despair. Select a medium-sized porgy or bergall, cut it into four inch slices, an inch or so wide. Place your fluke leader and hook an inch or so above the sinker and go to work.

Cast out as far as possible with the underhand method and then reel that bait **slowly** along the bottom, stopping at intervals to feel for a possibly interested fluke. Continue reeling along the bottom until the rig is straight up and down—then allow it to lie quietly. Even a full minute is not too long.

Then lift the rod cautiously. Should you feel weight, allow the fish to do its own hooking; don't be in too great a hurry as the largest fluke are often the slowest about taking the bait. Don't expect miracles because not all wrecks have a residence of fluke every day. But this method does work and I've won many a pool by doing this.

As for bulldog blackfish, I'll tell you right now that they require specialized methods. But even this isn't difficult, although it does take patience and a willingness to lose terminal gear. The method which follows was also taught to me by Big Olaf, and with it I watched him take a 23 pound black from the offshore Sea Bright grounds while we fished aboard the old Zoraya from Canarsie one raw November day back in 1927. What a fish!

What you've got to do when out blackfishing—whether it be over a wreck or rock-strewn bottom—is to continue fishing until you notice a disgusted fisherman lose enough rigs in his chosen spot to give up and fish elsewhere. That's your signal to move in and bait up with green crab—the largest you can find on board. Don't bother to prepare the crab as you would ordinarily do. Leave the top shell on, claws too, and run your hook through one side of the crab and out the other so that the all-important barb is exposed.

Get that rig on bottom and try your best to hold it still, which if the sea is rough may be difficult to do; but it must be done. Large blackfish are extremely cagey and suspicious and absolutely will not go near a crab which acts in an abnormal fashion. I can guarantee one thing: you won't get many small blackfish as that large bait seems to hold them at bay, but if there is an outsized black down there, the chances are excellent you're going to catch it.

Doing all this will cost you terminal tackle, no questions about it. But remember, the worst possible fishing places are the ones which harbor the largest blackfish. The pool winnings alone from one of these brutes will more than pay for hooks and sinkers for the next six months—and then some.

This blackfishing method works well and I've had much success with it when the conditions are right. It doesn't work every time, of course, but well enough for you to keep it in mind and take the chance.

As for those other bottom feeders we sinker bouncers put into our buckets with regularity—sea bass, porgies, ling, whiting, etc.—I haven't yet found a system which will produce the largest fish. I think that with these fish it is best to take your chances along with everyone else.

But the next time you're in the big-fish pool and chasing cod, fluke, or blackfish, keep Big Olaf's fish-catching methods in mind. I'm sure you'll find as I did that in the long run, pools will begin to come your way.

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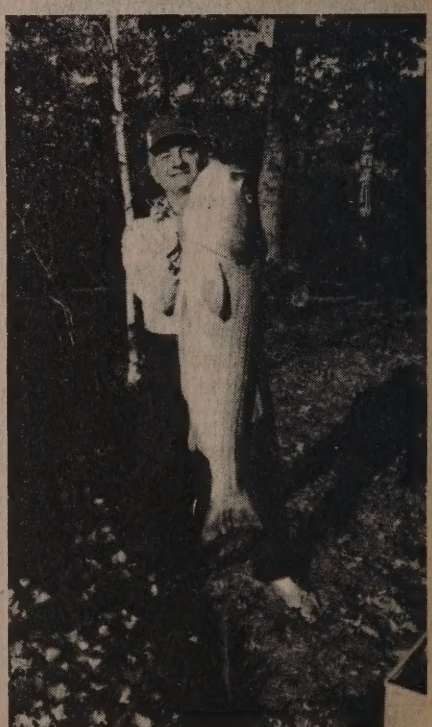
East End Report

by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** advises that the start of the codfish run at the CIA grounds has started and may quite well be as great as last winter. Sunday's pool fish was a 55 pounder for Len Sisco of Maspeth Queens. Runner up was a 46 pound hake for Bob Deptuk of Bayside. The boat came in with 5 hangers over 40 pounds. This is on mussel bottom in 150' of water. Wednesday's trip was a good day also with Lou Rosado of Diawa and Nick Karas of Newsday taking a decent number of cod and a couple of hake and blacks. Thirty fares sailed on Wednesday and all had fish. Please note that cod trips will also sail Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays.

On Sunday aboard the **Marlin IV**, fares had 7-10 cod a man up to 30 pounds along with a few mackerel and blacks at Cartwright.



Joe Kayal whipped this 37.10 lb striper from the rocks beneath Montauk's famed light. The cow, taken on a swimming plug, was checked in at Johnny's Tackle Shop.

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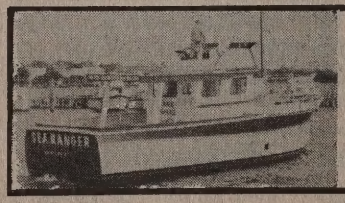

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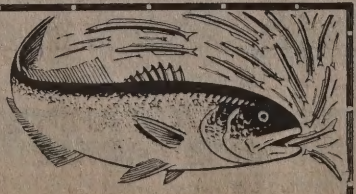

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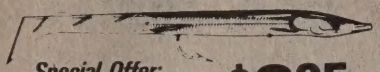

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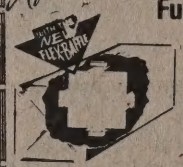

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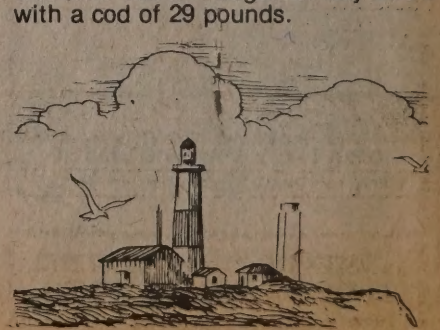
South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

At **Captree**, Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy Fleet** reports excellent cod fishing - "the best I've seen in 10 years." The Captain's been fishing both open bottom and wrecks, weather permitting. The fishing during the week has been good with 60 to 100 cod being taken. Weekends are better with over 100 being hauled over the rails. The best catches of the week belong to Pete Russo of Mastic with a 50 pounder.

The **Yankee III** skippered by Capt. Bob Patafio reports good codfishing south of Jones Inlet in 100' of water. Although not as good as last week's fishing it has been a steady pick on the open bottom. Pool winners this weekend was Jim Bogart of Bay Shore with a cod of 29 pounds.



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Western South Shore Report

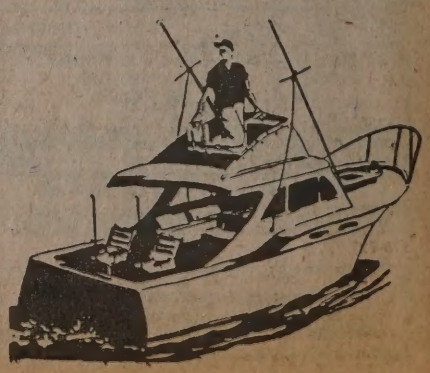
by Stu Miller

WEST END BAYS & INLETS

Aboard the **Starstream II** on Sunday, roughly 50 cod were taken with the pool fish a 33 pounder taken by Frank Budinski of Lindenhurst. There were also a few 25 pounders swung aboard. Due to the stormy weather the boat did not sail Thursday or Saturday. However, fishing was good most of the week. Monday's body count was 50 cod, Tuesday 90, Wednesday 30 cod and 31 on Friday. Fish are averaging 6 to 7 pounds and are being caught on both wrecks and open bottom.

Codding was good all week aboard Capt. Jim's **Super Spray II** on the days they could get out. On Sunday Russ Park of Poughkeepsie had 7 cod to 30 pounds, while Tom Angel of Staten Island decked 6 cod up to 20 pounds. Frank Cosenza of Manhatten had 6 fish to 40 pounds. On Saturday's trip under "evil" conditions, plenty of small cod were brought up including a 20 pound pool winner. Jim says there are still plenty of cod and fishing is being done on both wrecks and open bottom.

Aboard the Capt. Al on Monday first and second place pool winners were 59 pound and 42 pound cod. High hook was 11 cod. Tuesday's trip was a little slower with 52 cod for the day including an 18 pound pool fish. Wednesday saw 25 cod taken in the 5 to 12 pound range with things slowing due to the storm moving in. Thursday's count for 10 men was 147 cod in the 5 to 12 pound range. Friday and Saturday were wiped out due to weather but Sunday's fares had 49 cod to 20 pounds.



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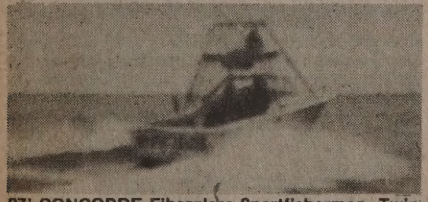

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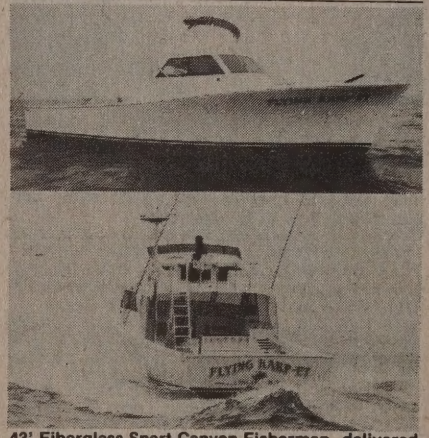

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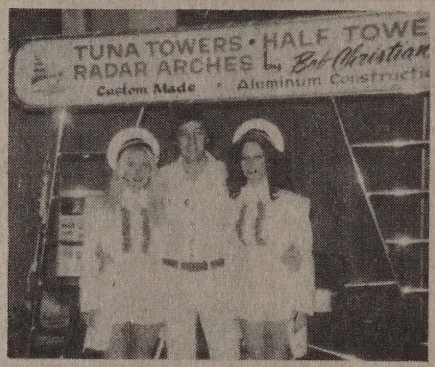

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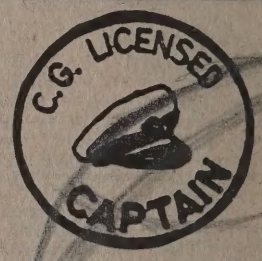

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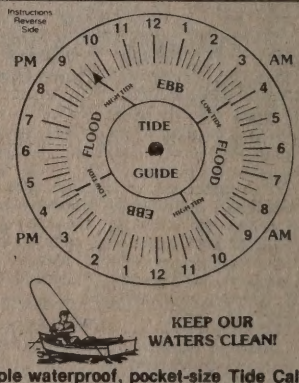

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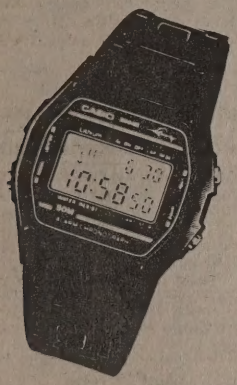

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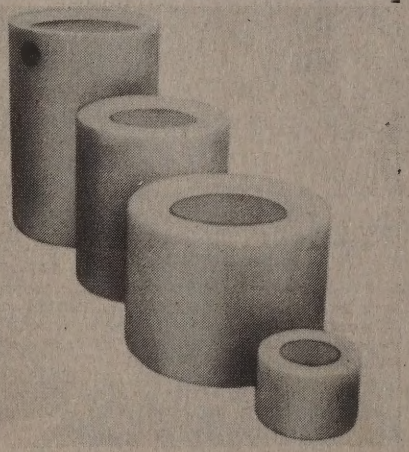

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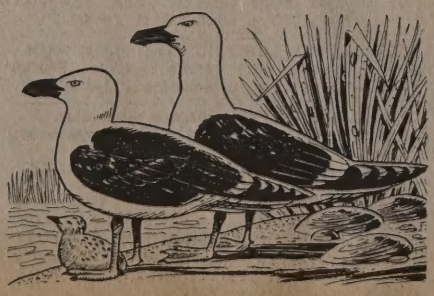

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